

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline 2011/12**

Philosophy 2020: Basic Logic (Section 002)

Fall/Winter 2011/12

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:30 – 3:30pm

University College Room 30

Instructors: Sarah Hogarth Rossiter (Fall term)

shogart@uwo.ca

Stevenson Hall 4136, ext. 87767

Molly Kao (Winter term)

mkao4@uwo.ca

Stevenson Hall 4132, ext. 87768

Office hours T.B.A.

DESCRIPTION

Modern formal logic, as developed in the 19th century by Gottlob Frege et al., is a key tool for the interpretation, analysis, and evaluation of the underlying structure of language and argumentation. This course introduces students to the use of modern formal (i.e., symbolic) logic.

We will study Sentential Logic (SL) during the Fall term, moving on to the more powerful Predicate Logic (PL) in the Winter term. In each case, we will learn how to translate English sentences and arguments into symbolic language, and how to analyse and evaluate arguments using various techniques. Philosophical implications will be considered along the way.

This course is intended primarily for students not planning further studies in Philosophy or Logic. (Students wishing to continue in honours-level studies in philosophy should consider transferring to the more advanced Philosophy 2250, ‘Introduction to Logic’.)

TEXT

Bergmann, Merrie et al. 2008. *The Logic Book*. 5th edition. New York: McGraw-Hill.

(This book is available in the bookstore. *Students may wish to use the 4th edition, but **must** be aware that pagination and exercise numbers differ from the 5th edition – hence, extra care should be taken when completing assigned problems, particularly those to be handed in.*)

OBJECTIVES

Students will learn how to translate English sentences and arguments into symbolic language, and how to analyse and evaluate these arguments using different techniques. Students who successfully complete this course will be familiar with concepts such as validity and soundness,

various syntactic and semantic properties of arguments, and procedures such as constructing truth tables, truth trees, and derivations.

REQUIREMENTS

Assignments: Fall Term	5 @ 4%	
Winter Term	4 @ 5%	
		Total: 40%
Midyear Exam (December 2011):		30%
Final Exam (April 2012):		30%

Assignments: Each student is required to complete a total of nine assignments, one every two to three weeks. The assignments are to be completed independently, and will consist of several problems designed to demonstrate the student's understanding of and competence using the concepts and techniques taught in class. The assignment should be submitted to the instructor, in class, on or before the due date as announced. **Late assignments will be penalized 10% per day**, including weekends and holidays (thus, an assignment due on a Thursday and received the following Monday will be penalized 40%); exceptions may be made in cases of medical or personal emergency, at the discretion of the instructor.

Midyear and Final Exams: The date, time, and location of the midyear and final exams will be set by the Office of the Registrar. These exams will be administered jointly with Section 001, with time allowance and format to be announced.

In addition to these graded requirements, students are expected to regularly complete textbook exercises to practice the techniques taught in class. Students should not expect to excel in this course without considerable time devoted to practice – 'Logic is not a spectator sport'!

AUDIT

Students wishing to audit the course should consult with the instructor prior to or during the first week of classes.

The **Department of Philosophy Policies** which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website at <http://www.uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/policies.html>. It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Philosophy, and thus ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.