PHL 313: Introductory Symbolic Logic

Spring 2012, CAL 100, Tues & Thurs 11am-12:30pm

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Extra TA: Charlie Barnes
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Review/Help Sessions: 3:30pm Wed, (TBA)

Course Information:
This is a first course in deductive symbolic logic. We'll study formal languages for representing sentences in logically precise ways, we'll study algorithms for evaluating arguments as logically valid or invalid, and we'll get an introduction to some of the surprising discoveries logicians have made about what tasks no algorithm can possibly do.

Readings:
Our textbook will be Richard Jeffrey's *Formal Logic: Its Scope and Limits, **4th Edition***. Copies have been ordered to the UT bookstore. You're welcome to buy your copy from Amazon, Barnes and Noble or elsewhere. Right now, it looks to be about $28 online from Amazon. If you order it online, I can distribute a photocopy or PDF of the first chapter while you wait for delivery. Don't buy the 3rd edition!

Students who are desperate for a supplementary textbook can consult Daniel Bonevac's *Deduction*. I can lend my copy out for students to photocopy chapters they want extra reading on.

Assignments and Grading:
Grading will be based on a midterm exam worth 25% each, a final exam worth 35%, and four homework assignments each worth 10%. Any student who skips the midterm or final will not only receive a zero, but will have their course score reduced by 10%.

Pluses and minuses will be used to assign final course grades. The default standard for converting percent scores to letters will be as follows:
97-100% = A+
93-96 = A
90-92 = A-
Similarly for Bs, Cs and Ds, in the 80s, 70s and 60s respectively, and below 60 is an F. (Sadly, an A+ will become an A when the grade goes to the registrar. But it's its own reward. Other grades aren't affected.)

Exception: if the entire classes scores are low enough, then I reserve the right to curve the percent-to-letter conversion so that a reasonable fraction of students get As, Bs, Cs, and so on. In other words, I will only curve so as to boost your grades, but my default plan is to have no curve.

Lateness Policy:
Late homeworks suffer a 10% penalty, compounded by a further 10% for every 24 hours of lateness. Exception: the final homework assignment may not be handed in late at all.

The only way to avoid a penalty for late work is to bring a documentation of illness. Do not ask for an extension or a reprieve without bringing documentation. No exceptions will be made.

Disabilities:
"Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259."

Schedule:

DATE	CHAPTER
Week 1, *Jan 17 & 19*	1
Week 2, *Jan 24 & 26*	1/2
Week 3: *Jan 31 & Feb 2*	2
Week 4: *Feb 7 & 9*	3
Week 5: *Feb 14 & 16*	3
Feb 14th	**First homework due**
Week 6: *Feb 21 & 23*	4
Week 7: *Feb 28 & March 1*	4
Week 8: *March 6 & 8*	Review Session and MIDTERM
March 6th	**Second homework due**
March 6th	TAs use lecture to review homework solutions and prep for midterm exam; (Sinan's office hours today cancelled)
March 8th	**MIDTERM EXAM**
Week 9: *March 20 & 22*	5
Week 10: *March 27 & 29*	5/6
Week 11: *April 3 & 5*	6/7
Week 12: *April 10 & 12*	7
April 10	**Third homework due**
Week 13: *April 17 & 19*	7
Week 14: *April 24 & 26*	8
Week 15: *May 1 & 3*	8
May 3	**Fourth homework due**
May 14	**FINAL EXAM (9am; location TBA)**