

Intro to Symbolic Logic (Spring 2010)

Course Information: PHIL 114-2

Instructor: John Anders

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Office Hours: An hour before class in Central Desert Complex (CDC #4) or by appointment; I always appreciate emails ahead of time telling me that you plan to come.

Course Objective: To learn a formal language, both its syntax and semantics, and gain an understanding of how that formal language is a symbolization of natural language.

Required Text and Software: *Language, Proof and Logic*, 2008. N.B. Since this text comes with software that contains a unique registration id that can be used only once, there is no purpose in buying a used copy of it.

Grades: There are three components to your grade:

HMWK (electronic submissions) – 30%

Quizzes – 20%

Exams (Mid Term and Final) – 50%

N.B. Class Participation Does Bump Your Grade!

We will have two in class quizzes and exams, but you will be electronically submitting homework for every class as well as coming to class with other handwritten exercises. All the exercises are important, but your homework grade is based solely on the electronic submissions. For each electronic assignment your homework grade is either full credit, partial credit, or no credit. These assessments are at the discretion of the instructor; to get full credit you will need to get more than a certain percentage correct. Your final homework grade will be computed from the sum of the assignments you (fail to) submit. In principle there's no reason why you can't get all of them 100% right just through trial and error since the computer resources of the class can grade your assignment before you submit it to me, and they can do so as many times as you like!

Your overall letter grade will be based on the standard numerical scale (90-100%=A, 80-90%=B, etc.), which means that you should not expect a curve.

Homework Advice: You can't learn logic passively. You have to apply yourself to problems (practice, practice, practice!). Thus the importance of doing the homework cannot be overemphasized; this is why you must do all the homework assignments and try as hard as you can not to fall behind without catching up very quickly. There are many exercises at the end of each section, and you should do as many of these as you can. Since these are meant, not as tests, but as learning experiences, they won't be given letter grades and you shouldn't worry too much if you are struggling with them. The lpl software can grade your efforts and tell you where you are going wrong, however there will always remain some problems you find challenging. **TAKE NOTE OF THE HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS YOU THINK ARE TOUGH, BRING THEM TO CLASS AND WE WILL WORK THROUGH THEM TOGETHER.**

Course Advice: As many past students will attest, this is a challenging course. It demands that you develop certain reasoning *skills* rather than retain a storehouse of information, and these skills build upon one another. This means that it is *tremendously* difficult to catch up once you've fallen behind. **You cannot put off preparing for exams until the last minute and expect to pass this course!** The best way to do well in this class is to:

- (1) Do all the HMWK assignments (even the written ones).
- (2) Don't get behind, and catch up quickly if you do.
- (3) Ask questions in class when things confuse you.

I cannot emphasize (3) enough.

Disability Resource Center (DRC): UNLV complies with the provisions set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, offering reasonable accommodations to qualified students with documented disabilities. If you have a documented disability that may require accommodations, you will need to contact the DRC for the coordination of services. The DRC is located in the Student Services Complex (SSC), Room 137, and the contact numbers are: Voice (702) 895-0866, TDD (702) 895-0652, fax (702) 895-0651. For additional information, please visit: <http://drc.unlv.edu/>.

Academic Misconduct – Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV's function as an educational institution.

An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another, from the Internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources. See the *Student Academic Misconduct Policy* located at: <http://studentconduct.unlv.edu/misconduct/policy.html>.

Religious Holidays Policy -- Any student missing class quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays shall be given an opportunity during that semester to make up missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor no later than the last day at late registration of his or her intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. This policy shall not apply in the event that administering the test or examination at an alternate time would impose an undue hardship on the instructor or the university which could not be avoided. For additional information, please visit:

<http://catalog.unlv.acalog.com/content.php?catoid=1&navoid=44&bc=1>.

Tutoring -- The Academic Success Center (ASC) provides tutoring and academic assistance for all UNLV students taking UNLV courses. Students are encouraged to stop by the ASC to learn more about subjects offered, tutoring times and other academic resources. The ASC is located across from the Student Services Complex, #22 on the current UNLV map. Students may learn more about tutoring services by calling (702) 895-3177 or visiting the tutoring web site at:

<http://academicsuccess.unlv.edu/tutoring/>.