Fall 9-1-2007

PHIL 210.01: Introduction to Logic - Deduction

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A deduction is an argument in which, certain things being laid down, something other than these necessarily comes about through them. —Aristotle, Topics 100a25

Whatever has at any time been concluded justly, whatever knowledge has been acquired otherwise than by immediate intuition, depended on the observance of the laws which it is the province of logic to investigate. If the conclusions are just, and the knowledge real, those laws, whether known or not, have been observed. —John Stuart Mill, A System of Logic

It ain’t necessarily so. —Ira Gershwin

Text: Virginia Klenk, Understanding Symbolic Logic, 4th edition (green cover). This text is required and available at the University Bookstore in the UC. There is also a copy on 2-hour reserve at the library.

Course Description
This is an introductory course in logic. The objective is to provide you with a basic understanding of deductive logic and to prepare you for more advanced logic and philosophy courses. Most meetings will consist of a brief lecture followed by question and answer sessions and lots of cooperative problem solving.

We will be studying artificial languages which operate according to very strict rules. These languages are much simpler than English (or any other natural language), but they throw light on the reasoning we do in English in our day-to-day lives and help to refine that reasoning. Specifically, we will learn how to translate from English into the languages of sentential and predicate logic and how to construct proofs and determine the validity of arguments in each of these languages.

The principal aim of the course is to help you to acquire certain intellectual skills. Whether or not you acquire these skills depends, mostly, on whether you dedicate enough time to the course outside of the classroom. You will need to study the text and do the daily homework assignments in order to master the material. (Attending lectures is not enough!) Doing the exercises is indispensable. You cannot learn how to do logic by watching. You learn it mostly by doing—much the way you learn to speak a natural language, or play the drums, or dribble a basketball.

Friendly advice: Don’t fall behind in the course. The material is cumulative, with each lesson building on preceding lessons. Since the only way to learn is by doing problems, cramming won’t help you much in this course. There are no make-up exams or extra credit opportunities.

Evaluation and Course Requirements
90% of your grade will be based on 3 exams worth, respectively, 20%, 30% and 40% of your final grade. The remaining 10% of your grade will be based on in-class quizzes, worth 1% each. If you
average on “A-“ or higher on your exams, your quiz scores will not adversely affect your final grade.

**Quizzes:** There will be a quiz every week except for week thirteen (Thanksgiving). Quizzes will be given on Wednesday except for the weeks when we have exams (weeks 5 and 9), when they will occur on Friday. I will usually give the quizzes at the beginning of class and I will count only your 10 highest quiz scores when calculating your final grade. The point of the quizzes is to (gently) spur you to keep apace and to give you regular feedback so that you know right away if you’re in trouble.

**Homework:** You should read each unit we cover in class and do the problem sets at the end of the corresponding unit before we discuss the material in class. **You will get much more out of our meetings if you do the assigned reading and exercises first.** The problem sets consist of a number of starred and unstarred exercises. We will go over some of the unstarred exercises in class; the answers for the starred exercises are in the back of the book, so you can check these yourself, as you go. In addition, I have placed copies of the answers to the unstarred exercises on reserve at the library. Remember: you have to do the exercises to master the material. This means you will need to be doing homework continuously throughout the term.

Please note: **There will be no make-up exams or quizzes.**

**Seeing Me:** If you have trouble with any of the material, come see me. Don’t wait. Come to my office hours. If you can’t make these, let me know and we can set up another time to meet. Bring problems you have started to our meeting. I can best help you by seeing where in particular you are having trouble.

**Notes**

September 17: Last day to drop classes or change grade option free of charge.
October 8: Last day to drop classes or change grade option without a petition.

Please let me know if you have a disability so we can make accommodations.

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**Course Schedule**

Please note that the exam dates are subject to change in order to accommodate our specific needs. **It is your responsibility to keep on top of any changes.**

**Week 1** (August 27-31): Introduction and Units 1-2
**Week 2** (September 5-7): Units 2-3
   No class Monday, September 3: Labor Day
Week 3 (September 10-14): Unit 4
Week 4 (September 17-21): Units 5-6
Week 5 (September 24-28): Exam 1; Unit 7

*Exam Units 1-6 Monday, September 24*

Week 6 (October 1-5): Units 7-8
Week 7 (October 8-12): Units 8-9
Week 8 (October 15-19): Units 8-9
Week 9 (October 22-26): Exam 2; Units 10-11

*Exam Units 7-9 Monday, October 22*

Week 10 (October 29-November 2): Units 11-12
Week 11 (November 5-9): Units 13-14
Week 12 (November 12-14): Units 14-15
   No class Friday, November 16: Instructor out-of-town
Week 13 (November 19): Unit 15
   No class November 21-23: Thanksgiving
Week 14 (November 26-30): Units 15-16
Week 15 (December 3-7): Review

*Exam Units 10-16 Monday, December 10, 8:00a-10:00a*