

PHL 110: Introductory Logic  
Tuesdays, Thursdays 9:40am – 10:55am

Instructor: Professor Ney

Office: Lattimore 523

Email: [aney@mail.rochester.edu](mailto:aney@mail.rochester.edu)

Phone: x58109

Office Hours: Wednesdays 10am-noon, Thursdays 4-5pm, and by appointment

This course will provide an introduction to modern formal logic. It will introduce the concepts of consistency, validity, and soundness. The focus will be on giving students the tools to recognize valid and invalid methods of reasoning. Most of the course will be devoted to providing translations into a formal system of first order logic and deriving proofs of validity and invalidity using the method of truth trees. There will also be discussion of some basic metalogical results regarding the decidability, soundness, and completeness of our methods.

### **Text**

Richard Jeffrey, *Formal Logic: Its Scope and Limits*, Third Edition, (Hackett, 2004).

(\*note: if you buy the text online, please be sure to get this edition.)

### **Grading**

Assessment in this course will be on the basis of weekly homework assignments and three in-class exams.

#### I. Homework

Homework will be assigned weekly, and *will not be accepted late*. The assignments will be posted on WebCT for students to print out, complete, and turn in. Answer keys will also be available on WebCT after each assignment's due-date. A good practice would be to always print out these assignments ahead of time and do them immediately after class while the ideas are still fresh in one's head.

At the end of the semester, the two lowest homework grades will be eliminated. The average of the remaining assignments will constitute 40% of your grade.

#### II. Exams

There will be two in-class exams during the semester and one final exam. The exams will count for 60% of your grade. The breakdown will be as follows. The exam on which you receive the highest mark will count for 30%, the remaining two exams will each count for 15%.

Dates held:

Exam 1: Thursday, October 13

Exam 2: Thursday, November 17

Final Exam: Monday, December 19 at 4pm

### **Class Meetings**

Class attendance is mandatory. Students will not be graded on the basis of class participation, however, it will be useful to attend and come prepared to ask questions, in particular if you are having any difficulty with your homework.

Final note: To some students, logic comes extremely easy. To others, it is more challenging until one gets the hang of it. Either way, you will find it impossible to do well in this course without regular class attendance. If you come to class and still find the assignments challenging, please do not hesitate to come to my office hours or set up an appointment. All work in this course builds on what came before, so be sure to ask for help as soon as things become difficult.