
PHIL 012: Symbolic Logic

Syllabus, Spring 2014

COURSE INFORMATION

Credits: 3
Delivery: Web, [ANGEL](#)
Start Date: January 13
End Date: May 2

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Name: Mark Fisher, PhD
Email: markfisher@psu.edu
Phone: NA
Office Hours: Online M, Th 10am-11am EST

Catalog Description: This course provides an introduction to the formal logical study of propositions and arguments. It will cover mechanical tests for determining the logical properties of propositions, as well as techniques for proving the deductive validity of arguments, for two logical languages: propositional logic and predicate logic.

Required Text: Agler, David W. *Symbolic Logic: Syntax, Semantics, and Proof*. 2013. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield. (Text should be available at University Bookstore and through any online book site.)

Instructor Feedback & Response Time: Your instructor will reply to questions, concerns, and comments directed to him via e-mail in a timely manner, not to exceed ONE business day. The “Technical Help” message board should be the first recourse for communicating specific questions or problems with technical aspects of the administration of the course. Students are encouraged to respond to the problems and questions posted by their peers. When corresponding with your instructor, classmates, and people providing technical assistance, please use appropriate language and etiquette. You can expect meaningful feedback on all quizzes and exams within ONE week of the deadline.

Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Identify, analyze, and evaluate arguments
- Translate propositions and arguments from English into the languages of propositional and predicate logic
- Employ mechanical tests for determining the logical properties of propositions and sets of propositions
- Employ various strategies for proving the deductive validity of arguments

Course Organization:

After an introductory lesson, the course is divided into 2 major parts. These are:

- *Propositional Logic (Lessons 2-5)*
- *Predicate Logic (Lessons 6-8)*

Each of these parts is composed of a series of lessons—some of which correspond to one week of the course, others of which will take longer to complete. At the beginning of each lesson you will find a list of instructions concerning what has to be done in order to complete that lesson. This list will include: (1) required reading and (2) required exercises from the text, (3) lecture notes and interactive materials to be reviewed online, and (4) any quizzes and exams that are to be taken before moving on to the next lesson. Each new lesson will build on the concepts and methods developed in previous lessons. Accordingly, it will be essential that you not only ‘complete’ all parts of the lesson, but that you do what is necessary (on your own *and* in conversation with other students and the instructor) to master the conceptual and technical aspects of each lesson.

Synchronous instruction vs. Asynchronous instruction

This course is an asynchronous course. This means that you do not meet on a designated day and time for instruction. The pace of this course within each assignment period is up to you. However, it is the responsibility of the student to adhere to all deadlines and due dates. Once the class has completed a lesson, we will move onto the next lesson. This keeps the class on task and enables students to learn the material over an appropriate period of time.

Course Assignments

Readings and Interactive Materials (ungraded)

Each lesson requires a significant amount of reading from the text, and contains additional online content and interactive materials. Any questions about any of these materials can be posted on the Yammer group discussion forum. Your instructor will check this forum daily.

Participation (5% of final grade)

At the beginning of the course you will be asked to introduce yourself to the class via a comment on a voicethread, and most lessons will contain at least one opportunity to participate in a voicethread discussion of the material for that lesson. There is also a Yammer group where you are encouraged to ask and/or answer questions about the material. Regular participation in these discussions is expected of each member of the class.

Practice Quizzes (10% of final grade)

Each lesson will contain a practice quiz that you should take when you have completed the readings, done the exercises, and worked through all the on-line materials. These are designed to help you assess how prepared you are for the quiz and/or exam for that lesson. These will be graded for completion rather than for correctness. They can be taken as many times as you like, and you will receive automated feedback concerning how well you did each time. If you would like more detailed feedback, email the instructor through the ANGEL site and/or post questions to the Yammer group.

Quizzes (15% of final grade)

Most lessons will also contain a quiz covering the material for that lesson. The format of the quiz will vary depending on the subject matter of the lesson, but it will be similar to that of the practice quiz for that lesson. Often times, the due date for a quiz and an exam will be the same. If you would like to get written feedback on your quiz before taking the exam, you should plan to take the quiz no later than Wednesday of the week in which both are due.

Note: Quizzes will be subject to a time limit. After the time expires, the quiz will be inaccessible and the grade will be calculated based on what is completed so far. Students will be given a warning prior to the time limit. See quiz instructions for details.

Exams (70% of final grade)

There will be 5 exams. The exams will be time-limited but can be taken any time during the exam period. Format will vary depending on the material covered. No consultation with course materials, other students, or outside materials is allowed during exam period.

Note: Exams will be subject to a time limit. After the time expires, the exam will be inaccessible and the grade will be calculated based on what is completed so far. Students will be given a warning prior to the time limit. See exam instructions for details.

Deadlines

All assignments are due by 11:55pm EST on the assigned date (please refer to the course calendar in the Getting Started folder for due dates). Students will be unable to go back and complete course work; it is your responsibility to keep up with your assignments.

Students with an excused absence (hospitalization, jury duty, or family emergencies) may be asked to produce proper documentation in order to make up graded work. All make up work is at the discretion of the instructor.

Grades

Overall Course Grading Scale

93-100% - A

90-92% - A-

88-89% - B+

83-88% - B

80-82% - B-

78-79% - C+

73-77% - C

70-72% - C- (Note: for final grade, no C- is given; C = 70-77%)

68-69 – D+ (Note: for final grade, no D+ is given; D = 60-69)

0-59 - F

Instructor's Discussion Board and Voicethread Policies

- Try to think of discussion boards and voicethreads as an extension of your real-life classroom.
- For complex posts to discussion boards, try composing in Word, edit, and then copy/paste into Yammer, or attach word document to your post.
- Try to keep related ideas organized under separate threads.
 - If you are replying to someone else's post, hit "Reply." Do not create a new post.
- Also, do not feel obligated to respond to a post or comment on a voicethread if you feel it does not require a response or comment.
- Please be appropriate, professional, and considerate of others.
- The instructor has the right to remove any discussions or comments that are not appropriate. Students are also subject to classroom behavior and conduct policies in the student code of conduct.
- Read others' posts carefully before posting yourself; this avoids redundancy and keeps the discussion clear and focused.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

The Technical Help message board should be the first recourse for communicating specific questions or problems. Students are encouraged to respond to the problems and questions posted there by their peers. To access ANGEL's technical support page, click on the Help button (in the image of a question mark), found on the left of the screen in ANGEL. Persons needing General ANGEL assistance may call 814-865-4928 between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Please use the forms available on the Help website whenever possible and an ANGEL support expert will assist you. Turnaround time is generally less than one business day.

University Policies

Academic Integrity

Penn State defines academic integrity as the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest and responsible manner. All students should act with personal integrity, respect other students'

dignity, rights and property, and help create and maintain an environment in which all can succeed through the fruits of their efforts (Faculty Senate Policy 49-20).

Dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated in this course. Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabricating information or citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students. Students who are found to be dishonest will receive academic sanctions and will be reported to the University's Judicial Affairs office for possible further disciplinary sanction.

Disability Access Statement

Penn State welcomes students with disabilities into the University's educational programs. If you have a disability-related need for reasonable academic adjustments in this course, contact the Office for Disability Services (ODS) at 814-863-1807 (V/TTY). For further information regarding ODS, please visit the Office for Disability Services Web site at <http://equity.psu.edu/ods/>.

In order to receive consideration for course accommodations, you must contact ODS and provide documentation (see the documentation guidelines at <http://equity.psu.edu/ods/guidelines/documentation-guidelines>). If the documentation supports the need for academic adjustments, ODS will provide a letter identifying appropriate academic adjustments. Please share this letter and discuss the adjustments with your instructor as early in the course as possible. You must contact ODS and request academic adjustment letters at the beginning of each semester.

You can also go to this site to see the statement: <http://accessibility.psu.edu/syllabus>

Affirmative Action & Sexual Harassment Policy

The Pennsylvania State University is committed to a policy that all persons shall have equal access to programs, facilities, admission, and employment without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by University policy or by Commonwealth or Federal authorities. Penn State does not discriminate against any person because of age, ancestry, color, disability or handicap, national origin, race, religious creed, gender, sexual orientation, or veteran status. Direct all inquiries to the [Affirmative Action Office](#), 211 Willard Building, University Park.

Teach Act Statement

The materials on this course Web site are only for the use of students enrolled in this course for purposes associated with this course and may not be retained or further disseminated.