Introduction to Logic

PHIL-UA 70-001
Spring 2016

Course Objective

In order to make up your mind on any given question or subject, it is important to be able to evaluate arguments. Modern symbolic logic provides us with formal techniques for representing and evaluating arguments. This course is an introduction to the techniques of modern symbolic logic, in particular to sentential and predicate logic. The successful student will learn how to put arguments from ordinary language into symbols, how to construct derivations within a formal system, how to ascertain validity using truth tables or models, and s/he will gain a basic understanding of the notions of soundness and completeness of a formal system.

Required Text

All students are required to purchase a copy of Peter Smith, *In Introduction to Formal Logic* (2010 edition). This will be our class text and, with some exceptions I will highlight, the lectures will by and large follow the oragnization of this book.

You might also consider purchasing a copy of the *Logic Book* (6th Edition) by Bergmann, Moor, and Nelson, which covers by and large the same material and is somewhat more pedagogical. All other readings will be made available on the Blackboard site for this class.

These books will be available at the NYU book store.

Requirements

- Weekly problem sets: 50 % of the final grade.

- A midterm exam: 20 % of the final grade.

- A final exam: 30 % of the final grade.

Course Policies

- All assigned work must be handed in to receive a passing grade in the course.

- Regular attendance is a requirement for passing the course.

- Problem sets must be handed in on time. Late assignments will not be graded and will receive zero credit. I will grant extensions only on the basis of a doctor's note or a comparable excuse.

- Any student who is found to have cheated on an examination or to have committed plagiarism will receive an F grade in the course and the matter will be referred to the office of the relevant dean for consideration of further disciplinary action.

Office Hours

Wednesdays, 3-5 pm and by appointment