Phil 203: Elementary Formal Logic

Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Audrey Yap (ayap@uvic.ca)
Office/Phone: CLE B307 (721-7510)
Office Hours: Thursdays: 10:00-12:00, and by appointment
Class Information: TWF 10:30-11:20 in HSD A240
Course Website: Through CourseSpaces. http://coursespaces.uvic.ca
About the book: You need an unused registration ID, which you will find on the CD sleeve if you purchase a physical copy. You do not need a physical copy of the textbook. An easy way to purchase Language, Proof, and Logic is online through this site: http://ggweb.stanford.edu/store. If you notice any accessibility issues with respect to the readings or course website, please let me know.

Course Outline: This is an introductory course in formal logic that covers the use of symbolic techniques for the analysis and construction of good arguments. Proofs in formal logic mirror the structure of good arguments in English generally, so to construct them, we learn about good methods of inference. Not every method of reasoning results in a valid argument, so it is useful to learn about ways of differentiating good from bad methods. Since this course covers the basics of modern symbolic logic, it is extremely useful for any students who might want to continue studying logic; but any students interested in writing better arguments will benefit from it.

Communication: Office hours are held on a drop-in basis. You do not need to make an appointment to see me during those times, although the amount of time I can spend talking to any one person during office hours can depend on how many people are waiting. If you do want to schedule an appointment outside my office hours, try emailing me with a few suggestions for times that would work for you. I’m also happy to try and answer short questions either before or after class, time permitting. In general, email is my preferred method of communication, especially for any official requests. If you ask me a question over email, you can expect a reply within about 1 working day. If you don’t hear back from me after that time frame, feel free to try again in case your message went astray. When you do address me (over email or otherwise), please do so as either Professor (Prof.) Yap, or Dr. Yap. Please don’t use any of Mrs/Miss/Ms/Mr, for a variety of reasons.

Course Logistics: I do not take attendance, and basic notes are posted on the course website on a regular basis. This means that if you do have to miss class, you will be able to get an idea of what you have missed through the online resources. However, classes will give you the opportunity to get more detailed explanations of the concepts. I do expect you to come to class, but there is no need to tell me if you need to miss class unless it is likely to be a regular occurrence or there is a test scheduled for that day.
There will be 11 homework assignments, roughly one per week. Homework must be submitted by 5pm on the due date, unless otherwise specified. Most of the homework is turned in using the Submit software in the LPL package, and will be marked electronically. Although the software allows you to submit your assignment to the instructor multiple times, only the first submission will be counted for your grade. This means that the entire assignment must be submitted at the same time. If you wish to check your work before submitting it, you can submit the assignment only to yourself as many times as you like. Some additional questions will be answered separately on CourseSpaces. All assignments will be weighted equally, but only the best ten will be counted. Late homework will generally not be accepted, but only the best ten will be counted. Exceptions to these rules will only be made in the case of documented illness or other extenuating circumstances which interfere with the timely completion of the assigned work. Such documentation must be received within a week of the due date.

Homework will be worth 25% of the final grade. There will also be two non-cumulative midterms (20% each) to be held during class, and a cumulative final to be held during the final examination period to be scheduled by the Registrar (35%). Rewrites will only be scheduled in cases of documented illness or other extenuating circumstances. Such documentation must be received within a week of the exam date. Percentage grades correspond to letter grades according to the following scale:

90-100 = A+; 85-89 = A; 80-84 = A-; 77-79 = B+; 73-76 = B; 70-72 = B-; 65-69 = C+; 60-64 = C; 50-59 = D; 0-49 = F.

**Academic Integrity:** You may work on the homework assignments in small groups, but must write your answers to the homework independently. In particular, you must create your own solution files when turning in your homework, since the software can detect copied files. Work on assignments or tests that has been copied, or has been provided for someone else to copy, will not be given credit. For more information on academic integrity, see the University Calendar.

**Schedule:**

- **Week One:** Jan 5, 6, 7  
  Topic: The Language of Formal Logic (1.1-1.3, 2.1)

- **Week Two:** Jan 12, 13, 15  
  Topic: Atomic Sentences, Boolean Connectives (2.5, 3.1-3.7)  
  HW 1 due Jan 15

- **Week Three:** Jan 19, 20, 22  
  Topic: Boolean Connectives (4.1-4.5)  
  HW 2 due Jan 22
• Week Four: Jan 26, 27, 29  
  Topic: Formal Proofs (6.1-6.6)  
  HW 3 due Jan 29

• Week Five: Feb 2, 3, 5  
  Topic: Formal Proofs (6.1-6.6)  
  Test One: Feb 5  
  HW 4 due Feb 5

• Week Six: Feb 16, 17, 19  
  Topic: Conditionals (7.1-7.2, 8.2)  
  HW 5 due Feb 19

• Week Seven: Feb 23, 24, 26  
  Topic: Introduction to Quantifiers (9.1-9.6)  
  HW 6 due Feb 26

• Week Eight: Mar 1, 2, 4  
  Topic: Quantifiers (10.1-10.5)  
  Test Two: Mar 4  
  HW 7 due Mar 4

• Week Nine: Mar 8, 9, 11  
  Topic: Quantifiers and Translation (11.1-11.4)  
  HW 8 due Mar 11

• Week Ten: Mar 15, 16, 18  
  Topic: Proofs with Quantifiers (13.1-13.3)  
  HW 9 due Mar 18

• Week Eleven: Mar 22, 23  
  Topic: Proofs with Quantifiers, Numerical Quantifiers (14.1-14.2)  
  HW 10 due Mar 23

• Week Twelve: Mar 29, 30, Apr 1  
  Topic: Review  
  HW 11 due Apr 1

Note: This syllabus is tentative, and should only be used to give a rough guide to the course schedule. Additional readings may be assigned, and dates may be changed if necessary.