

Philosophy 220: Symbolic Logic
University of British Columbia
2021 – 2022, Term Two
Meetings: M/W/F, 11:00 – 11:50 AM

Instructor: Thomas Bittner
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Office hours: Tu/Th, 10:00 – 10:50 AM,
and by appointment

Teaching Assistant:
Email:
Office hours:

Course Outline

Course description:

This course provides an introduction to the language and methods of contemporary symbolic logic. We will learn how to represent natural language statements and arguments in symbolic form and how to evaluate them using formal methods. Along the way, we will also stop to reflect on some of the properties of the formal language and methods and the significance of logic for other intellectual pursuits.

Class meetings will be a mix of lecture, discussion, and workshop. We'll be doing lots of exercises both as homework and in class.

Text:

Richard Jeffrey (2006) *Formal Logic: Its Scope and Limits*, 4th edition, Hackett Publishing Co.

Course requirements:

- Four (4) problem sets (10% each)
- Two (2) midterm exams (15% each)
- One (1) final exam (25%)
- Course Involvement (5%) [attendance and contributions to online discussion]

Course policies:

There is a grade penalty for late problem sets. Exams must be taken at their scheduled times. Only medical or religious reasons will be accepted for missing a scheduled exam. Students will not ordinarily be excused for work-, travel-, childcare-, or sports-related activity. Should a medical emergency arise, notify one of the instructors by email before the exam to avoid receiving no credit.

In this course, academic misconduct mainly takes the form of copying another student's answers to a problem set or cheating on an exam. It will not be tolerated. One purpose of the problem sets and the exams is to assess each individual student's grasp of the material, so you must work on them entirely on your own. The rest of the work for this course (e.g., completing the exercises that accompany the text) may be done collaboratively.

If you miss marked coursework (course involvement, exam, or essay) and believe you may qualify for an in-term concession (ITC) (and you are an Arts student), review the Faculty of Arts' [academic concession page](#) and then complete Arts Academic Advising's [online academic concession form](#), so that an advisor can evaluate your concession case. If you are a student in a different Faculty, please consult [your Faculty's webpage on academic concession](#), and then contact me where appropriate.

If you have any questions on this, see me.¹ Here is a good online source for information on these issues: <http://learningcommons.ubc.ca/academic-integrity/>

¹ Some of these policies are taken from the course policies sections of the course outlines for COGS 400 and PHIL 100 or from Arts internal resources.

Advice:

Attend every class meeting. Read the portion of the text assigned for that day before you come to class and do all the assigned exercises. You may find that some of the exercises and some of the problems on the homework are too difficult for you to do at your current location on the learning curve. I only ask you to give them a good old college try. I find that the student who has tried and failed to solve a problem learns a lot more from seeing it done in class than the student who never tried to solve it at all.

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