

PHI 251: Symbolic Logic
TTH 12:30-1:50 PM, Hall of Languages, 115

Dante Dauksz

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 4:00-5:00 PM, via skype & by appointment

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Course Description: We would like to be able to say when we have good reasons for accepting the conclusion of an argument. In this course, we will focus on one particular class of arguments, namely, deductive arguments, i.e., arguments whose premises purport to logically guarantee the truth of the argument's conclusion, provided that the premises are true. The goal of this course is to introduce you to the techniques of modern symbolic logic so as to provide you with the necessary tools for evaluating deductively valid arguments. To that end, we will undertake a systematic study of propositional and predicate logic. Students will learn the techniques for showing the validity or invalidity of arguments, the consistency and logical equivalence of sets of formulas and will learn how to test for the logical truth, logical falsity and contingency of individual formulas in both systems of propositional and predicate logic.

Required Texts:

Understanding Symbolic Logic, Fifth edition, Virginia Klenk

Assessment: There will be four one-hour examinations each worth 100 points. There will also be a final exam which will be cumulative and worth 200 points. You will be given homework exercises throughout the semester and the final total will be worth 100 points. Finally, an additional 50 points will be awarded for class attendance and participation. The total number of points available is 750. Your final grade will be determined on the basis of this numerical grade: the lowest one hour exam grade will be dropped, and your final grade will be the resulting total. Note: I will not drop your final exam grade-that will count fully as a part of your grade in all circumstances.

Homework: It would be impossible to overstate the importance of the exercises in this course. Most of what you learn in this course you will learn by doing the exercises. It will be difficult to do well in this course without considerable, mostly successful, work on the exercises. Turning in the exercises will make it possible to find out about your mistakes before the exam rather than after.

Homework will be assigned in class. All exercises are to be turned in by the indicated date and time. In the absence of a doctor's note or some other valid form of notification, no late homework assignments will be accepted.

Exams: Each exam is worth 100 points. As already noted, the exam on which you score the lowest will be automatically dropped from your final grade. The final exam will be cumulative and will be worth 200 points. If, for whatever reason, you cannot take an exam it is your responsibility to make prior arrangements with me. There will be no make-up exams unless arrangements are made before the missed exam. Note that travel

plans are not a legitimate excuse for missing a test. Review sessions will be scheduled prior to each test.

Class Participation: It is very important that you attend class regularly and participate in class discussion. We will often work as a class through particular problems on the board and I strongly encourage you to work through the solutions and to ask questions whenever you are puzzled or confused. Furthermore, 50 points of your final grade will be allotted on the basis of your participation.

Schedule: This schedule is subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class and on blackboard.

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Reading:</u>	<u>Date:</u>	<u>Reading:</u>
Aug 31:	Introduction & Syllabus	Oct 21:	Ch. 9.5-9.7
Sept 2:	Ch. 1-3	Oct 26:	Third Exam, Ch. 6-9
Sept 7:	Class Cancelled	Oct 28:	Ch. 10
Sept 9:	Ch. 3-4	Nov 2:	Ch. 10-11
Sept 14:	Ch. 22	Nov 4:	Ch. 13-14
Sept 16:	Ch. 5	Nov 9:	Ch. 13-14
Sept 21:	Review	Nov 11:	Ch. 15 & 17
Sept 23:	First Exam, Ch. 1-5	Nov 16:	Ch. 15 & 17
Sept 28:	Ch. 7	Nov 18:	Fourth Exam, Ch. 10-17
Sept 30:	Ch. 8	Nov 23:	Thanksgiving Break
Oct 5:	Ch. 8	Nov 25:	Thanksgiving Break
Oct 7:	Ch. 9	Nov 30:	Ch. 16 & 18
Oct 12:	Ch. 9	Dec 2:	Ch. 19-20
Oct 14:	Second Exam, Ch. 7-9	Dec 7:	Ch. 19-20
Oct 19:	Ch. 6	Dec 9:	Wrap-Up

TBA: Final Exam, Cumulative

Reading: You should do the indicated readings before each class, so that you have a chance to think about what questions you have concerning the material. If the lecture and discussion in class do not answer your question, make sure to ask it. Preparing questions, asking questions, and hearing the answer and any related discussion are all excellent ways of making sure that you learn the material. Asking questions will also raise your grade. After class, you will probably need to read the same material again,

when you do the exercises. This will help you to master the concepts and analytical tools that you use in the course.

Important Note: Some people find the first part of the course very easy and are misled into thinking that the rest will also be easy for them. This mistake always has serious negative consequences if it leads to neglect of homework or uneven attendance in class. Some of you may be familiar with some of the material in the first part of the course (and it is pretty easy for some people who are learning it for the first time). But none of you will have much prior knowledge of what is going on in the second half of the course, and mastery involves considerable attention for everyone.

Cell Phones, Laptops, Ipads, etc.: None of the aforementioned electronic devices are to be used during class. They are distracting to me as well as to your classmates. Furthermore, there is no need to have them in this class since in most of the lectures you will be provided with a sheet of paper that has part of the class notes, and you will need to add things during class in order to complete the notes.

Blackboard: I will frequently use blackboard to send emails, post hand-outs, sample exams and other material. Make sure that you can sign on to that site and that you check it frequently.

Disability-Related Accommodations: If you believe that you need accommodations for a disability, please contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), <http://disabilityservices.syr.edu>, located in Room 309 of 804 University Avenue, or call (315) 443-4498, TDD: (315) 443-1371 for an appointment to discuss your needs and the process for requesting accommodations. Students who are in need of disability-related academic accommodations must register with the Office of Disability Services (ODS), 804 University Avenue, Room 309, 315-443-4498. Students with authorized disability-related accommodations should provide a current Accommodation Authorization Letter from ODS and review those accommodations with me. Accommodations, such as exam administration or permission to use a laptop computer in class, are not provided retroactively; therefore, planning for accommodations as early as possible is necessary. For further information, see the ODS website, <http://disabilityservices.syr.edu/>.

Religious Observances Policy: SU religious observances policy, found at http://supolicies.syr.edu/emp_ben/religious_observance.htm, recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes and by the submission deadline for flexibly formatted classes.

Academic Integrity: Syracuse University's Academic Integrity Policy holds students accountable for the integrity of the work they submit. Students should be familiar with the policy and know that it is their responsibility to learn about course-specific expectations, as well as about university policy. The university policy governs appropriate citation and use of sources, the integrity of work submitted in exams and assignments, and the veracity of signatures on attendance sheets and other verification of participation in class activities. The policy also prohibits students from submitting the same written work in more than one class without receiving written authorization in advance from both instructors. The presumptive penalty for a first offense by an undergraduate student is course failure, accompanied by a transcript notation indicating that the failure resulted from a violation of Academic Integrity Policy. The standard sanction for a first offense by a graduate student is suspension or expulsion. For more information and the complete policy, see <http://academicintegrity.syr.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>

That said, it is OK to work with others in doing the homework exercises. But you should actively participate in all work that you hand in. Copying answers worked out by someone else violates academic ethics. In addition, you won't learn very much that way. In examinations it is against academic regulations to copy from the work of others, or to copy from or consult prepared materials other than those provided with the examination. It is equally unacceptable to provide help to others, and you are expected to take reasonable precautions to prevent copying of your work. Academic dishonesty is an extremely serious offense, and may result in expulsion from the University. It is important that examinations be free of cheating, and it is almost as important that everyone be confident that this is so. For this reason it is not enough that you should avoid cheating; you should also take care that no sane person can believe that you are cheating. During exams, do not sit near anyone you know, and do not talk to anyone. This will help to prevent any appearance of collaboration.

Academic integrity is taken very seriously by me, and any suspected violation will be investigated and sanctions imposed if a violation is determined to have occurred. Intentional violations will typically result in a "Disciplinary F" for the course.