Philosophy 251: Logic
Fall 2025
Lecture: MW 10:35 – 11:30 SOM 13
Discussion: Fri 10:35 – 11:30 HoL 215
Discussion: Fri 11:40 – 12:35 HoL 105

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Text (required)
Language, Proof and Logic (2nd Ed)
Jon Barwise & John Etchemendy
ISBN: 978-1-57586-632-1
https://www.gradegrinder.net/Store/store.html

Course Description
This is an introductory course on formal logic. You might think to yourself, "Hey I'm very logical. This course will be a breeze." If you're thinking this, just know that there are many who failed this course thinking the same thought.

This course is very similar to a math course. Yeah, I know it satisfies a humanities requirement. You might have registered thinking you could BS your way through it like other philosophy or religion courses. There is no possible way to BS this course. It's like trying to BS through Algebra or Calculus.

This class is about learning how to use an abstract formal language in order to model and understand how reasoning works. In that way, it is similar to how math is a language that scientists use to model the behavior of physical objects. It is a very powerful language, and if you master it, your ability to reason will improve substantially. It'll take time and effort, but I think all good things in life take time and effort.

Here's how your grade breaks down:
Everything in this course will be done through the textbook, which includes an online course. You can either purchase the physical or digital package.

Once you purchase the book, you will need to register online at gradegrinder.net. This will give you a registration number, which you will use to submit assignments for grading. Please be sure to watch the tutorial videos so that you know how to navigate the course and submit work.

You will submit all work to gradegrinder.net.

There are a total of 13 assignments. So, each assignment is worth 1/13 of your grade, or about 7.7% of your grade. Each assignment will be due before midnight on Thursdays.

If you have any questions about the material or about course mechanics, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Legal Stuff

POLICY STATEMENT ON ACCOMMODATION FOR DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS:
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 to the instructor and review these accommodations with the instructor. Accommodations, such as exam administration, are not provided retroactively; therefore, planning for accommodation as early as possible is necessary.

For more information, see the Office of Disability Services, http://disabilityservices.syr.edu.

POLICY STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:
The Syracuse University 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 instructor and general academic expectations with regard to proper citation of sources in written work. The policy also governs the integrity of work submitted in exams and assignments as well as the veracity of signatures on attendance sheets and other verifications of participation in class activities. Serious sanctions can result from academic dishonesty of any sort.

For more information and the complete policy, see the Academic Integrity Policy and Procedures on the University's website at http://academicintegrity.syr.edu.