

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY  
Undergraduate Course Outline Summer 2010  
Philosophy 2020: Basic Logic  
Previously Philosophy 131

**Summer Term 2010**

**Classes** Mo. Tu. We. Th. Fr. 11:00-13:30

**Room:** TC-341

**Office Hours:** Tu. 2:30-3:30; Th. 2:30-3:30

**Instructor:** Nicolas Fillion

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**Tel:** 661-2111 x80588

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## 1 Course Objectives

This course is intended to introduce students to the art and science of logical reasoning — to the crucial but elementary methods needed to construct and assess logically valid arguments. The study of basic logic provides excellent preparation for intellectual work in many other disciplines. Students from all faculties will benefit from learning various methods of sound reasoning — methods that prize precision, clarity, rigor, practice, and patience. Students in this course should expect to develop an enhanced ability to engage in disciplined argument and to write in an organized and focused way.

This course assumes no prior knowledge of logic, and is intended primarily for students not planning further study in philosophy. We will introduce formal symbolic logic, focusing on argument structure, propositional logic and elementary quantificational logic. Applications to certain fields (such as philosophy, linguistics, computer science, mathematics, *etc.*) will be considered, if students manifest interest in those topics.

## 2 Method of Instruction

The lectures will present the material in a clear and engaging way. Since this is an intensive course, part of the class time will be devoted to practice and to review of assignments and quizzes. Students are expected to attend classes. Moreover, students will need to access WebCT regularly for readings and assignments.

## 3 Requirements & Schedule

1. Participation: 5%
2. 12 homeworks on WebCT: 25% (2% each+1% for completing all of them)
3. 2 quizzes: 15% (7.5% each)
4. Midterm (in class): 25%
5. Final Exam: 30%

The Final Exam will be either on August 16 or 17, at 9:00 or 2:00 (to be determined by the faculty). Exceptions will be granted according to the university regulations only.

Below is the schedule:

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
"First term"				
July 5	July 6	July 7	July 8	July 9
		<b>Homework 1</b>		<b>Homework 2</b>
July 12	July 13	July 14	July 15	July 16
<b>Homework 3</b>		<b>Quiz #1</b>		<b>Homework 4</b>
July 19	July 20	July 21	July 22	July 23
<b>Homework 5</b>		<b>Homework 6</b>		<b>Homework 7</b>
"Second term"				
July 26	July 27	July 28	July 29	July 30
<b>Midterm</b>		<b>Homework 8</b>		<b>Homework 9</b>
August 2 Civic Holiday	August 3	August 4	August 5	August 6
		<b>Quiz #2</b>		<b>Homework 10</b>
August 9	August 10	August 11	August 12	August 13
<b>Homework 11</b>		<b>Homework 12</b>		
August 16 <b>Final Exam at 9h or 2h</b>	August 17			

## 4 Texts

- Merrie Bergmann, James Moor, and Jack Nelson, *The Logic Book*, 5<sup>th</sup> edition (New York: McGraw-Hill, 2008).
- Additional material will be posted on WebCT (in PDFs).

## 5 Audit & Department Policy

Students wishing to audit the course should consult with the instructor prior to or during the first week of classes.

The **Department of Philosophy Policies** which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website at <http://www.uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/policies.html>. It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Philosophy, and thus ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.