Elementary Logic – Fall 2020 (PHIL / LINGST 2700)

Professor: Dr. Marina Folescu
Email: folescum@missouri.edu
Class time: Mon & Wed, 11–12:15 am
Office hours: via Zoom (by appointment)

Topic and Method

We will study formal, or symbolic, logic, concentrating on the use of a symbolic language and the development of a formal system of derivation. No prior knowledge of philosophy or mathematics is required. The parts of logic that we will study in Philosophy / Linguistics 2700 are Sentential logic and Quantification Theory.

Logic is not inherently difficult, but it is a subject that can only be mastered through practice. Homework assignments will be completed on a computer using a program, LOGIC 2010, designed for this course. The program will evaluate your work immediately, and will explain any errors you have made. In some cases it will also offer hints and suggestions. You may correct your errors before submitting your work. It contains a database of problems from which your instructors will make assignments, but you can also create your own "User" problems. The logic program is obtained by downloading an installer from the Logic 2010 Download Page, which is accessible from the Logic 2010 Portal:

`http://logiclx.humnet.ucla.edu/`

Subsequent updates are handled automatically. Work completed on the computer is saved, and is submitted over the Internet to a course database. Once you have submitted work, you will be able to view your submissions, as well as all assignments, on your own Student's Assignment Webpage, also accessible from the portal at the above address. (Access to the Student's Assignment Webpage also requires that the student be "Registered" in the Logic 2010 database.) The Student's Assignment Webpage is also accessible from within the program.

Feel free to download the program, and play with it. Detailed instructions for installing and starting are available in the document "Installing, Starting, Registering, and Backing Up in LOGIC 2010", which is linked to the Download Page. If you wish to sample use of the program, read the document "Using LOGIC 2010".

About this course

This course is 100% online, which means that all course-related activities will take place, in some manner, online. The majority of our interactions will be at different times of the day throughout the week (we call this "asynchronous"). Everything you need will be made available through the course and accessible via the Modules area. You will need to check the Schedule for details.

I will be using the following teaching techniques and strategies:

Mini lectures: pre-recorded videos that you must watch

Zoom office hours: we will meet one-on-one, whenever you want to talk about something course related. Office hours are not mandatory, but it is a good way to keep in touch, especially in an online course. Think of this as your time to ask anything about philosophy, in general, and logic, in particular, of someone who has been thinking about such issues for a while longer than you.

Technical Support

Mizzou Tech Support can provide step by step instructions on using Canvas tools, help you log in, or troubleshoot issues. Email: techsupport@missouri.edu; Call: (573) 882-5000; Visit: http://doit.missouri.edu

Canvas also provides phone and chat support for students 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You can find contact information in the course site under the Help link in the Canvas global navigation (the menu on the far-left side of the course). For your convenience I have also listed it here: Call Canvas Support: (855) 981-6196 (Available 24/7); Link to chat with Canvas support https://cases.canvaslms.com/liveagentchat?chattype=student

You will find additional information about Technical Support for all of MU's centrally supported educational technologies by clicking on the link, Support & Policies in our Canvas site. This link is located in the left-hand course navigation menu.

If you are having difficulty with a technology tool in Canvas, consider visiting the Canvas Student Guides, which has overviews on each Canvas tool and tutorials on how to use them.

If you have any difficulty with Logic 2010, please email me.

Assignments and Grading

1st Midterm Exam (Week 5) 15%

2nd Midterm Exam (Week 9) 15%

3rd Midterm Exam (Week 13) 15%

Final Exam (12/17/2020, 11:59 pm.) 35%

Note: the date and time of the final examination are set by the Registrar's office according to the days and times of the class meeting; I have no say in exam scheduling. **Please do not ask to take the exam early**; if you know now (or suspect) that you will have commitments that make you unable to take the final exam at the time specified above, do not enroll in this class.

Total Homework 20%

Any student who receives a grade of F on any of these exams will automatically fail this class.

Weightings are approximate with room for instructor judgments to tip the balance on the overall grade in the course.

The first Midterm will cover approximately the first chapter of the text. The second Midterm will cover approximately the second chapter of the text. The third Midterm will cover approximately the third chapter of the text. The final will cover the first four chapters with emphasis on the fourth. All exams are open book, open notes. All exams are take-home exams. You may use the program to solve the exam questions, or you may do it by hand and upload scanned copies of the exam on Canvas. Practice exams, illustrative of the difficulty of the exam, will be provided before each exam.

Regular homework assignments will be given during the semester. The assignments will vary in length and difficulty, but all regular homework problems will be weighted equally. If you do not do the homework on a regular basis, you will find it difficult to understand the lectures. Homework assignments will be completed on a computer using the logic software. Completed work is saved, and then submitted over the Internet to a course database from which you can view your own, scored, submissions on the Student's Assignment webpage. Assignments will be due 10 minutes before the beginning of the lecture. The first assignment will be due before the third lecture. For some of you, a few of the assignments will be quite time consuming. You may wish to ascertain that your schedule this semester is compatible with a time consuming course.

Late Assignments: I will accept all late assignments, without deducing any points. If possible, let me know in advance that you won't be able to complete a homework assignment or an exam on time. All assignments must be completed by the end of finals week, to ensure that you receive a grade in this course.

Grading Scale

A+	98 – 100%
A	93 – 97%
A-	90 – 92%
B+	87 – 90%
B	84 – 87%
B-	80 – 84%
C+	77 – 80%
C	74 – 77%
C-	70 – 74%
D+	67 – 70%
D	64 – 67%
D-	61 – 64%
F	<61%

Course Policies

No extra-credit work will be given, so make your regular work count.

Canvas / E-mail: I expect all students to check their university e-mail accounts. Unless an email from a student requires immediate action, it is my policy to reply to emails within one business day. I will not reply to student emails asking questions that can be answered by

reading the syllabus. I also expect all students to check their email and/or Canvas regularly for announcements and other information.

Academic Integrity: Plagiarism, cheating, and other academic dishonesty, being unfair to other students, or disrespectful to anyone in the class, will not be tolerated. I strictly follow the university's policies on academic integrity. Each student is expected to know the University policy on plagiarism as it is stated on http://osrr.missouri.edu/guidelines/index.html. Students caught plagiarizing on an exam, or any assignment, will be reported to the Office of the Provost for investigation. Any assignment that contains plagiarized material (as confirmed via Option A or B) will receive **a grade of zero.**

Academic Accommodations: If you anticipate barriers related to the format or requirements of this course, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need to make arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please let me know as soon as possible. If disability related accommodations are necessary (for example, a note taker, extended time on exams, captioning), please register with the Disability Center (http://disabilitycenter.missouri.edu), S5 Memorial Union, 573-882-4696, and then notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. For other MU resources for persons with disabilities, click on "Disability Resources" on the MU homepage.

Online Class Netiquette: We all wish to foster a safe online learning environment. All opinions and experiences, no matter how different or controversial they may be perceived, must be respected in the tolerant spirit of academic discourse. You are encouraged to comment, question, or critique an idea but you are not to attack an individual. Our differences, some of which are outlined in the University's nondiscrimination statement, will add richness to this learning experience. Please consider that sarcasm and humor can be misconstrued in online interactions and generate unintended disruptions. Working as a community of learners, we can build a polite and respectful course ambience. For any video interactions, please make sure that there is nothing that can be perceived as offensive in the background (e.g. political emblems, flags, naked people, pics of naked people) and that you wear appropriate attire while recording yourself.

Mental Health: The University of Missouri is committed to supporting student well-being through an integrated network of care, with a wide range of services to help students succeed. The MU Counseling Center offers professional mental health care and can help you find the best approach to treatment based on your needs. Call to make an appointment at 573-882-6601. Any student in crisis may call or go to the MU Counseling Center between 8:00 – 5:00 M-F. After hours phone support is available at 573-882-6601. Visit our website at https://wellbeing.missouri.edu to take an online mental health screening, find out about workshops and resources that can help you thrive, or learn how to support a friend. Download Sanvello, a phone app that teaches skills and strategies to help you maintain good mental health. Log in with your Mizzou e-mail to unlock all the tools available through Sanvello at no cost to you.

Flexibility: Strictly adhering to a particular guideline is not always the most sensible course of action. So, I reserve the right to alter the course plan, reading schedule, grading policies, etc.

throughout the semester, when the need arises. All changes will be announced in class and on Canvas.

Learning Materials

Software: Logic 2010: A Workbook ©David Kaplan
Textbook: An Introduction to Symbolic Logic ©Terence Parsons (part of the software)