

Philosophy 250: Symbolic Logic
Winter 2010

General information

Time: T R 12:30 PM – 1:48 PM
Location: 120 Caldwell Lab
Webpage: <http://people.cohums.ohio-state.edu/caplan16/250.htm>

Recitation 1 Time: W 12:30 – 1:18 PM
Location: 2002 Evans Lab

Recitation 2 Time: W 1:30 – 2:18 PM
Location: 142 Fontana Lab

Instructor

Ben Caplan

Office: 337F University Hall
Office hours: T R 2:30 – 3:18 PM, or by appointment
Phone: 292.2479
Email: caplan.16@osu.edu

Teaching assistant

David Blanks

Office: 214 University Hall
Office hours: W 2:30 – 3:30 PM, R 2:00 – 3:00 PM, or by appointment
Phone: 292.3663
Email: blanks.11@osu.edu

Course description

We will study sentential and predicate logic. We will learn how to do three things: (i) symbolize natural-language arguments in various formal languages, (ii) interpret those formal languages, and (iii) do proofs in those formal languages.

Required text

Merrie Bergmann, James Moor, and Jack Nelson, *The Logic Book*, 5th ed. (Boston, MA: McGraw-Hill, 2009).

Course requirements

Homework assignments	20%
Midterm exam	30%
Final exam	50%

Homework assignments will be posted on the course webpage on Thursday after class and will be due at the beginning of class the following Tuesday. Only the six homework assignments on which you score the highest will count towards your final grade. No late or make-up homework assignments will be accepted.

Schedule

A detailed and updated schedule will be posted on the course webpage. We will cover Chapters 1-3, 5, 7-8, and 10.

The final exam will be 11:30 AM – 1:18 PM on Thursday, 18 March 2010 in 120 Caldwell Lab.

Disabilities

Students who might need accommodations are encouraged to contact me and the Office for Disability Services (150 Pomerene Hall, 292-3307).

Academic misconduct

Academic misconduct is a serious offense. You are responsible for knowing what counts as academic misconduct. You might want to consult the Code of Student Conduct or the Committee on Academic Misconduct:

http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp

and

<http://oaa.osu.edu/coam/home.html>.

GEC requirement

This course satisfies the Skills—Quantitative and Logical Skills—Mathematical and Logical Analysis (1(B)(2)) requirement.

Goals: Students develop skills in quantitative literacy and logical reasoning, including the ability to identify valid arguments, use mathematical models, and draw conclusions and critically evaluate results based on data.

Expected Learning Outcomes: Students comprehend mathematical concepts and methods adequate to construct valid arguments, understand inductive and deductive reasoning, and increase their general problem solving skills.

In this course, students develop their logical reasoning skills, including the ability to identify valid arguments and to draw conclusions, by learning how to do proofs in formal languages. Students learn formal languages that are adequate to construct valid arguments and understand deductive reasoning.