Introduction to Logic

Philosophy 210 | Fall 2026 | M W 11:40–1:00 | Room: LC 6

Professor: P.D. Magnus
E-mail: *pmagnus@albany.edu* Office: HU-218
Office phone: (518) 442-4223 Office hours: Tu 1:30–2:30, F 11:00–noon, and by appointment

T.A.: Shahed Abdolazizi
E-mail: *sabdolazizi@albany.edu* Office: HU-255
Dates and times for review sessions will be announced on Blackboard.

What the course is about: This is an introduction to modern logic. You will learn how to translate English language sentences into formal languages, and you will learn how to evaluate or demonstrate different properties in the formal language. Unlike sentences in English, sentences in the formal language are precise and unambiguous.

The course covers two formal languages: Sentential Logic (SL) and Quantified Logic (QL). You will learn the strengths and weaknesses of these different systems.

The textbook for this course is *forall x*, available in the campus bookstore. Note that there are several different versions of *forall x* that exist, so if you get a copy from Amazon or somewhere else it might not be what you need.

• We will be using the iClicker system for in-class quiz-taking and polling. You can purchase or rent an iClicker Remote from the campus bookstore.

You need a registered hardware iClicker to get credit for the polls and quizzes. No phone apps!

The Join Code for this course is WXQE. Enroll at `https://join.iclicker.com/WXQE` using your UAlbany email. Make sure you register the Remote ID from the back of your iClicker Remote.

Requirements: There will be three midterm exams and a final exam. Each component of the course will figure in your final grade:

15% clicker quizzes/participation

20% first midterm

20% second midterm

20% third midterm

25% final exam

If you can find an error in the textbook, then you are encouraged to point it out to me. The first student to report any particular error will receive a bonus equal to 1 point on a midterm exam.

Policies: There is no explicit attendance policy, although if you miss class you will be unable to participate in that day's clicker questions.

You are responsible for getting an iClicker, registering it, bringing it to class each day, and using it. Not having it with you means not getting credit for that day.

You will get clicker points for just answering questions and also for answering them correctly. You do not need to get every possible point. Getting just 80% of the possible overall clicker points overall will give you maximum credit.

• If you are or suspect you are contagious, *do not* come to class! Students who miss an exam with a legitimate excuse should e-mail me as soon as possible.

• Cheating will not be tolerated. Copying answers from another student during an exam, consulting notes on an exam, or using an absent student's iClicker to signal answers are all strictly forbidden. If you are caught doing any of these, you will get a failing grade.

Note that discussing iClicker questions with your neighbors in class is *not* cheating. I encourage you to learn collaboratively.

• Logic sits on the cusp of humanistic and formal disciplines. As such, this course may be used to fulfill the general education requirement for Humanities or for Mathematics. For more about General Education courses, see `http://www.albany.edu/undergraduate_bulletin/general_education.html`

Schedule

The schedule of topics is an approximation, but the dates of exams will not change.

M aug24 Introduction (ch 1)
W aug26 Sentential logic (2.1–2.2)
M aug31 continued (2.3–2.4) — First day with clickers!
W sep2 continued
M sep7 Labor Day — No Class!
W sep9 Truth tables (ch 3)
M sep14 review
W sep16 FIRST EXAM
M sep21 Quantified logic (4.1)
W sep23 QL (4.2)
M sep28 QL (4.3)
W sep30 QL (4.4–4.5)
M oct5 review
W oct7 SECOND EXAM
M oct12 Fall Break — No Class!
W oct14 Identity (4.6)
M oct19 Formal semantics (5.1–5.2)
W oct21 Models (5.3–5.4)
M oct26 more models (5.5)
W oct28 continued
M nov2 review
W nov4 THIRD EXAM
M nov9 Proofs (6.1)
W nov11 continued
M nov16 Derived rules (6.2)
W nov18 Proof strategy (6.6–6.7)
M nov23 Proofs in QL (6.4)
W nov25 Thanksgiving Break — No Class!
M nov30 continued
W dec2 continued
M dec 7 Proofs meet semantics (6.8–6.9)
W dec9 10:30–12:30 Final exam