Instructor: T. Lockhart
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Office Hours: 2-3 PM Monday, 1–2 PM Wednesday, 11 AM–noon Friday, and by appointment
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Course Content

This course is a course in both informal logic (critical thinking) and formal symbolic logic. The main goal of this course is to learn techniques for evaluating arguments. Formal symbolic logic translates arguments expressed in ordinary language into a special symbolic language and then evaluates the resulting symbolic arguments by using such devices as truth tables and formal proofs. Informal logic takes ordinary language arguments in their natural state and evaluates them without resorting to translation or formal techniques.

The course will cover chapters 1, 6, 7, and 8 of the textbook.

Examinations

There will be 4 or 5 in-class exams during the term and an optional final exam during final exam week at the end of the semester. Make-up exams will be given only for excused absences. The instructor will attempt to schedule exams so that they do not conflict with any foreseeable absences. You must notify the instructor in advance whenever you know that you will not be able to take an exam at its scheduled date and time.

Quizzes

There will be a number of quizzes given during the course. Quizzes will be announced in advance.

Homework

Schedules of assigned readings and homework problems will be provided early in the term. We shall devote much of each class to going over and answering questions about the assigned homework. This is a problem-solving course, which demands precision and skill that can be acquired only by doing lots of problems.

Your success in this course will depend to a large extent on your diligence in doing the assigned work. Getting behind in this course often leads to disaster. You will need to read and
study your textbook closely and carefully. “Skimming over” the assigned readings will not be enough.

Final Grade

If you take the final exam and if your grade on the final exam is higher than your course average going into the exam, then the final exam will determine 50% of your course grade. The other 50% will be determined by your grades on the in-class exams and the homework. If you do not take the final exam or if your grade on the final exam is not higher than your course average going into the final exam, then your final course grade will depend entirely on the latter.

Your quiz average will count the same as an in-class exam grade. For example, if there are 4 in-class exams, then your grades on those exams will determine 80% and your quiz average will determine the remaining 20% of your course average going into the final exam. Course averages will be interpreted according to the following scale:

A: 93-100
AB: 88-93
B: 83-88
BC: 78-83
C: 73-78
CD: 68-73
D: 63-68
F: 0-63

Numerical grades will not be curved.

Records

You should keep all graded exams and quizzes that are returned to you until after the course is over and you have been informed of your final grade in the course. This will enable us to resolve any questions about the recording of your grades that may come up at the end of the semester.

Disclaimer

Although the instructor will endeavor to follow the policies and procedures stated on this handout, he reserves the right to make reasonable changes if circumstances warrant. Any such changes will be announced in class, and reasons for the changes will be provided.

Disabilities

Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with certain medical or psychological disabilities. You must notify the course instructor at the beginning of the semester if you wish to request such accommodation.