

Formal Logic:

Philosophy 313

Curtis Franks

CONTACT INFORMATION

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THIS COURSE

Formal Logic is the Philosophy Department's basic course in logic. Logic is one of the central philosophical topics, thus standing alongside aesthetics, epistemology, ethics, hermeneutics, and metaphysics. It is the study of the relationships that obtain among facts, beliefs, and propositions independently of contingent features of reality. The modern approach to this study is through the development of formal languages, their interpretation, and their systematic implementation. Such will be the approach of this course. The formal language that we'll develop is that of classical, first-order logic. We will also learn to recognize the features of other logical systems (free, intuitionistic, second-order, and multi-valued logic) and to appreciate their significance.

THANABORDEE SAKDAPORN

Thana is the teaching assistant for this course. He will be in the logic lab each week. He is a graduate student in the Philosophy Department. Thana's e-mail address is:

tsakdapo@nd.edu

When you use the *LPL* software (as explained below), you will use Thana's name and e-mail address for the "instructor" fields.

THE LPL PACKAGE

We will follow the development of classical, first-order logic from parts I and II of *Language Proof and Logic* by Barwise and Etchemendy. *LPL* is a multi-media package containing a book and four pieces of software. (It is now in its second edition, and I do not know yet whether it is backwards compatible with the first edition.) To take this course, you will need to buy a new copy of *LPL* and register its software. (If you buy an old copy, then someone else will likely have registered its software and thereby rendered it useless to you.)

REQUIREMENTS

You must participate in our scheduled lectures. I don't take attendance, and you needn't notify me when you have to miss a class. But to pass the class you need to be part of it in some meaningful way. A useful paradigm is "good attendance and an occasional remark."

I will assign weekly problem sets to be graded. These comprise the bulk of your grade. Submit these *via* the virtual "grade grinder," as described in *LPL*. When you submit these, **use Thana's contact information in the instructor portion of the submission form**. He will keep a record of your success with the problems.

I will give you two "exams" (short, written assignments that require you to write a few explanations in a form that cannot be submitted to the grade grinder.) To answer the questions on these exams, you will need to reflect on the properties of the formal language and techniques of deployment that we develop in the class. You will also need to be able to demonstrate an understanding of some of the philosophical topics that come up now and again during lectures and discussions. The "exams" are each worth twenty-five points (a typical weekly problem set is worth twelve). These exams and the weekly problem sets together determine your grade for the course.

LOGIC LAB

I have designated a computer lab for this class. It is located at DeBartolo 331. The computers in the lab do not have the *LPL* software on them, so you will want either to install your *LPL* software on your virtual drive or carry the disc with you to the lab. Thana will conduct review and help sessions in the lab on Thursdays from 3:30pm–6pm. These sessions are not mandatory. You may want to come to them regularly and ask questions as they arise while you work on your problems, or you may want to drop in only occasionally when you have a specific question. If you never go to the lab, that's fine, too.

NOTE

Please be aware of the University's policies regarding academic honesty, anti-discrimination, and access to education for students with disabilities.

Here is the web-page of the office for students with disabilities:

<http://www.nd.edu/~osd/NEWHOMEPAGE.htm>

Here is the Philosophy Department's web-page devoted to academic honesty, with links to information about plagiarism and the University's honor code:

<http://philosophy.nd.edu/undergraduate-program/honesty/>

In addition I am someone you can approach if you have concerns about discrimination or proper scholarly behavior, whether or not the concern is related to this course.

IMPORTANT DATES

May 8 2pm final exam (due)