

PHIL 2500: Symbolic Logic

“The Logic Barn”

Spring 2008

Lectures: Peabody Hall 115, T/Th 11:00 am-12:15 pm
Discussion Sections: M or F (consult your class schedule)
Instructor: Richard Shedenhelm
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Office Hours: By appointment

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Office Hours: T, 12:30-2:30 pm, and by appointment

Course Description: The goal of this course is to introduce students to modern deductive logic, the study of correct reasoning and valid arguments. We will approach this topic by means of the symbolic methods developed primarily in the 20th century. We will begin by clarifying what an argument is and under what circumstances we can say that it is deductively valid. The course will then fall into two parts. The first part is concerned with *sentential logic*, that is, the branch of symbolic logic that takes sentences as the fundamental unit of logical analysis. Students will learn to symbolize English sentences and arguments and to assess their validity by the so-called method of natural deduction. The language of sentential logic has only limited expressive power, however. The second part of this course will, therefore, introduce a more sophisticated symbolic language that takes subjects and predicates to be the fundamental units of logical analysis, the language of *predicate logic*. Again, students will learn to symbolize English sentences and arguments in this language. Finally, we will expand the method of natural deduction in such a way that it allows us to test the validity of arguments that are symbolized in the language of predicate logic.

Required Text: Virginia Klenk, *Understanding Symbolic Logic*, 5th edition, N.J.: Prentice Hall, 2008. We will work through the entire text, following the order of chapters in the book. The instructor will announce in the lecture classes which chapters will be covered in the forthcoming week. Please bring your textbook to lectures and discussion sections.

Course Requirements: Your grade will be determined on the basis of your performance on the following:

1. Weekly quizzes done in the discussion sections (worth 50% of your final grade)
2. Midterm Examination (Tuesday February 26 11:00 am-12:15 pm) (worth 25% of your final grade)
3. Final Examination (Thursday May 1 12:00-3:00 pm) (worth 25% of your final grade)

Course Website: <http://www.rshedenhelm.name/logic/phil2500.htm>

(Note that we are not using WebCT for this class.)

Intellectual Honesty: All academic work must meet the standards contained in “A Culture of Honesty.” Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. Students can access “A Culture of Honesty” at the following website:
www.uga.edu/ovpi/honesty/culture_honesty.htm