Course Description

In PHIL 1320 (Introduction to Logic), you learned the basics of how to use an artificial logical language to model natural language inferences, to determine whether those inferences were valid.

For this to be a good approach, we need to have an answer to two questions. First, is the artificial language we are using actually any good at proving things? Second, does the artificial language we are using correctly capture the logical form of natural language sentences?

The first question is answered mathematically, by proving that the inference rules in our artificial language are all and only truth-preserving. The second question is answered philosophically, by examining whether there are certain modifications or additions to our language that may do a better job at modelling natural language inferences. The goal in this class will be to put students in a position to evaluate logical languages on both their mathematical and their philosophical merit.

Course Materials


Other readings will be provided through UM Learn.

Course Evaluation

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Assignments</td>
<td>10%/each</td>
<td>Mondays, in class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>See Grading System</td>
<td></td>
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The weekly assignments are a problem set, where you will have to do a mix of: (i) explaining some of the key ideas in that week’s readings; (ii) solving a number of logic exercises; (iii) discussing some of the philosophical arguments presented in your reading.

Assignments will be posted on Fridays, and will be due in class on the Friday of the following week.
There is no grading rubric for the assignments, as each assignment will have its own specific kind of difficulties. Each assignment will be given a letter grade corresponding to how well you did, given the difficulty of the assignment. This means that it is in principle possible to get an A on an assignment while only getting half the questions right; it is also in principle possible to get a C on an assignment while getting 80% of the questions right.

**Lesson 1:** don’t give up on a question just because it’s hard. Partial answers where you show your work will go a long way towards a good grade.

**Lesson 2:** it probably won’t hurt if you show your work in as much detail as possible. Correct answers with no work shown don’t count for that much here.

**Late Assignments and Rescheduled Tests**
You will be deducted 0.5 grade point per business day that your weekly assignment is late. If you have a reason why your assignment must be late, please talk to me about it at least 24 hours prior to the due date of the assignment (the earlier the better). If your assignment is late because of illness, I expect a doctor’s note. If your assignment is late for reasons related to accessibility issues, then you may get in touch either with me or with Accessibility Services, whichever you are more comfortable with.

**Plagiarism**
Plagiarism is a serious offence. At minimum, it may result in a 0% grade in the assignment in question. Students should familiarize themselves with the regulations regarding cheating plagiarism in the U of M Calendar.

**Accessibility Services**
Over and above the issues related to assignments or tests, you may require the assistance of Accessibility Services for other course-related reasons. Please get in touch with them as soon as possible so that we can ensure that you make the best out of your learning experience.

**Logic Clinic:**
Some of the things we will be going over in this class will be fairly new to those who have studied minimal or no logic. Given the speed at which an intermediate logic course proceeds, some students might find it helpful to have some extra time to go over exercises with my help. I will be booking a room and scheduling a weekly Logic Clinic, where students can come to work together on problems (not from the problem set, of course!) and to ask me questions. Think of this as a lab, except it is optional, ungraded, and free.

**Email and Office Hours**
My office hours are by appointment, but I am often at my office for a few hours before class, so feel welcome to just drop in. I check my email once or twice a day, so if I haven’t responded within 24 hours, please feel free to email me again: this will not bother me, you have a right to having your emails responded to. Email is not the place for deep philosophical discussion, however, so I will not answer substantive philosophical questions via email.
Grading System:
The University of Manitoba interprets grades as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Grade Point Value</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>Exceptional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>Very Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>Adequate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>Marginal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>Failure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
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You will be graded on this scale, and your assignments will be assigned a grade point value. Your final grade point value will be equal to the average of the 10 best grades received on assignments. The value will be rounded to the nearest available value from the chart, and that will correspond with your final letter grade.

**Example 1**: Suppose that you received a C+ on 4 assignments, a B on 5 assignments, and an A on 2 assignments. Your average of the best 10 grades is:

\[
(2.5 \times 3) + (3 \times 5) + (4 \times 2) / 10 = 3.05
\]

This will then be rounded to a 3.0 = B.

**Example 2**: Suppose that you received a B on two assignments, a B+ on 3 assignments, an A on five assignments, and an A+ on one assignment. Then the formula will be:

\[
[3 + (3.5 \times 3) + (4 \times 5) + 4.5] / 10 = 3.8
\]

This will then be rounded to a 4.0 = A.

In circumstances when you are 0.1 away from the next GPA level, I will take in-class participation into account, rounding in your favor if you positively contributed to class discussion. How often I do this is entirely at my discretion.