Philosophy 3203
Introductory Formal Logic
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We are often presented with arguments designed to convince us to believe certain things, or to act in certain ways. Most of the time we do pretty well at sorting out the bad arguments from the good ones, but we may not have a very clear idea of what this involves. One thing we often demand is that a good argument should be deductively valid, that its conclusion should be entailed by (should "follow from") its premises. But what is it for an assertion to be entailed by others? In this course we will develop a formal framework within which entailment and validity, along with other central concepts of deductive logic, can be rigorously defined and studied.