

**Introductory Formal Logic**  
**Philosophy 3203**  
**Syllabus**  
**Fall 2012**

Students in Philosophy 3203 are responsible for knowing and abiding by the contents of this document. Every effort will be made to avoid modifications of those contents; any such modification will be detailed in writing on a weekly assignment sheet, and announced in lecture.

**1. Instructor**

Matthew Moore  
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*Office hours:* Monday and Wednesday 2:30-3:30 p.m., and by appointment

Because I am the Chairperson of the Philosophy Department, I have a somewhat different schedule from most faculty members. I am on campus most days, but those days are extremely hectic. I am therefore unlikely to be able to see you on a drop-in basis (except, of course, during my office hours). The members of the departmental office staff have standing instructions to let my students in to see me, except on those rare occasions when I tell them that there are to be absolutely no interruptions. When you drop in I may not be able to talk with you for very long, but I will usually be able to take a moment to schedule an appointment. By far the best way to see me outside of office hours is to arrange an appointment by email.

During normal business hours (M-F, 8:50 a.m.-4:50 p.m.) access to my office is through the main department office, 3308 Boylan. If we have an appointment when the main office is closed, come directly to 3312 Boylan; if I forget to leave that door open, knock on it *vigorously*. I make appointments with a starting time and an ending time. The ending time stays fixed even if you come late to the appointment. If I have not seen or heard from you ten minutes after the starting time of your appointment, the appointment is canceled. I reserve the right, if two or more of your appointments cancel in this way, to make further appointments with you subject to the proviso that one more cancellation of this sort will result in my being available to you outside of class only during my scheduled office hours.

Finally, please note that I may sometimes be forced to schedule meetings at the times designated for my office hours. When that happens I will announce temporary office hours to make up for the missed ones; if possible I will make that announcement on a weekly assignment sheet, and in any event will announce it by email and on the course blog (§8).

**2. Lecture Schedule**

Lectures will take place Monday and Wednesday 3:40-4:55 p.m. in 4145 Boylan Hall. You are responsible for (that is, you may be tested on) all material covered in lecture.

### **3. Text**

The text for the course is Harry J. Gensler, *Introduction to Logic*; note that we are using the *second* edition. It is available at the campus bookstore. Any problems in obtaining a copy of the text should be reported promptly to me.

### **4. Course Description**

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 what exactly are the grounds on which we do this? One criterion is surely that an argument should be *valid*, that is, that its conclusion should follow from its premises. But just what is it for an assertion to follow from others? In this course we will develop a formal framework within which validity, along with other central concepts of deductive logic, can be rigorously defined and studied.

### **5. Course Objectives**

At the end of the course you will be able to:

- translate English sentences into formal notation, and vice versa
- give precise definitions of such basic logical properties as validity and soundness
- evaluate arguments for validity, and test for other basic logical properties, using truth tables and formal proofs

### **6. Course Overview**

The course divides into three units, as follows:

- **Unit I** Basic Propositional Logic: Chapter 6
- **Unit II** Propositional Proofs: Chapter 7
- **Unit III** Basic Quantificational Logic: Chapter 8

### **7. Grading**

Your grade will be determined by your performance on the homeworks (30%), on a midterm exam (30%) and on a cumulative final exam (40%). The course grade will not be computed using a curve (but see the comments in §7.1 about curves and the exams). Your grade can also be affected by attendance (§7.3); and by your observance of classroom etiquette (§7.4). Needless to say, violation of the standards of academic integrity (§7.5) can have a disastrous effect on your grade.

#### **7.1. Exams**

The midterm will be administered in class on Monday 22 October. The final examination will cover the entire course (Units I-III), and will be administered 3:30-5:30 p.m. on Wednesday 19 December, in 4145

Boylan. Exam grades will be curved (if and) only if the distribution clearly indicates that the exam in question was unduly difficult.

## 7.2. Homework

At the last class session of each week an assignment sheet will be distributed giving reading and homework assignments for the following week. You should keep a copy of each assignment sheet, as they give indications of what material is especially important and thus are invaluable study aids for the exams. These assignment sheets and other documents handed out in class will be available on Google Docs, with links on the course blog (§8).

You will do and submit your homeworks using the LogiCola program which is available free of charge on Professor Gensler's website. Instructions on downloading, installing and using the software are attached to this syllabus as Appendix I. When you start an exercise set in LogiCola you are asked to choose a level; the level you choose will determine the maximum grade you can earn on the homework. In the absence of indications to the contrary, you will receive 100 points for the homework if you complete it at level 9, 90 points at level 8, 80 points at level 7, and no points for level 6 or below. If point values other than these defaults apply for a particular homework, the applicable values will be given on the relevant assignment sheet. Note that exam questions will be pitched at the 100-point levels for the homeworks, so it is to your advantage to do each assignment at that level.

LogiCola includes a utility for emailing homework scores; this is what you will use to submit your homeworks to me. Please note that Professor Gensler has written the software so that doctored scores will be flagged as such when I process them. It will also catch attempts to submit a homework that was done by someone else. If you do either of these things, you are violating the College's standards on academic integrity (§7.5).

*Policy on Late Homeworks:* If the time stamp on the email in which submit your homework is later than the deadline stated in the relevant assignment sheet, a late penalty will be deducted from your score on that homework, according to the following schedule:

<b>Lateness</b>	<b>Penalty</b>
24 hours or less	10 points
More than 24 hours, less than 48	20 points
More than 48 hours, less than 72	30 points
More than 72 hours, less than 96	40 points
96 hours or more	50 points

You can "stop the clock" at any point by contacting me to arrange an extension, and you can prevent the clock from even getting started if you contact me *before* the original deadline. (Note that while I am fairly generous about extensions, my generosity is not infinite.) I will rescind late penalties already incurred only in *very* exceptional circumstances. In computing the homework component of your course grade, I will drop your two lowest homework scores, so you can get a 0 on two homeworks without harming your overall grade. Use this slack wisely!

### 7.3. Attendance

Attendance will be taken at each lecture; if you arrive after that has been done, it is your responsibility to ensure that your presence is noted by signing the back of the attendance sheet at the end of the class. While lecture attendance and participation are not officially components of the course grade, they can help in borderline cases to tip you into a higher grade category. If you are consistently absent or late, points may be deducted from your final grade; I will notify you if you are on the verge of losing points in this way. Students who need to miss class for religious reasons should consult the summary of the relevant state law on page 49 of the *Undergraduate Bulletin*.

### 7.4. Classroom Etiquette

We come together as a class to teach, and to learn from, one another; and our behavior in the classroom should always be consistent with that purpose. We must always, of course, strive to treat one another with the courtesy and respect which we are due as human beings and as members of the College community. Less obviously, there are apparently trivial actions that can have non-trivial negative effects on the class and so should be avoided. These include: consistent late arrivals, carrying on extraneous conversations, texting/instant messaging, doing outside work, getting up and walking out in the middle of class, not turning your cell phone off before class begins and (worse yet) leaving class to take a phone call. Unless your hearing is impaired, you will be expected to remove all headphones and earpieces when class begins. If you violate these guidelines you are disrupting class; if you do so persistently, it can harm your grade.

### 7.5. Academic Integrity

The faculty and administration of Brooklyn College support an environment free from cheating and plagiarism. Each student is responsible for being aware of what constitutes cheating and plagiarism and for avoiding both. The complete text of the CUNY Academic Integrity Policy and the Brooklyn College procedure for implementing that policy can be found at <http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/bc/policies>. If a faculty member suspects a violation of academic integrity and, upon investigation, confirms that violation, or if the student admits the violation, the faculty member MUST report the violation.

### 7.6. Incompletes

Incompletes will be granted only in exceptional circumstances. Please note that in order to be eligible for a grade of INC, you must have completed most of the work for the class.

## 8. Communication

All documents handed out in lecture will also be emailed to the class and posted on Google Docs. When I post a document I will share it with the class by emailing everyone a link to it. There will also be a link to the document on our course blog (<http://bit.ly/FormLogic>). The blog is private, as is access to the course documents on Google Docs. In setting all of this up I have used the email address I was given in the course roster on the Brooklyn College Portal, unless you provided me with a different one. It is your responsibility to notify me if your email address changes, or if you are having any difficulties with class-related communication (not receiving class emails, having trouble getting documents off of Google

Docs, etc.). You will receive an invitation to be listed as a reader of the blog; you will not have access to it until you have responded to that invitation. In addition to giving providing ready access to all course documents on the blog, I may also post additional comments or explanations there about issues that arise in class. I will also provide discussion threads in which you can ask, and I can answer, questions that come up in between class sessions.

## 9. Disability Services

In order to receive disability-related academic accommodations students must first be registered with the Center for Student Disability Services. Students who have a documented disability or suspect they may have a disability are invited to set up an appointment with the Director of the Center for Student Disability Services, Ms. Valerie Stewart-Lovell, at 718-951-5538. If you have already registered with the Center for Student Disability Services please provide me with the course accommodation form and discuss your specific accommodation with me.

## 10. General College Information

Please be aware of the following important dates on the College's Academic Calendar:

<b>Friday August 31</b>	Last day to add a course
<b>Monday September 10</b>	Last day for undergraduate students to file Pass/Fail application
<b>Friday September 14</b>	Last day to drop a course without a grade
<b>Wednesday September 19</b>	Last day for undergraduate students to apply to take Spring 2012 and Summer 2012 ABS final examinations
<b>Monday October 15</b>	Last day to file for Fall 2012 Graduation
<b>Thursday November 8</b>	Last day for undergraduate students to resolve Spring 2012 and Summer 2012 ABS and INC grades
<b>Friday November 9</b>	Last day to apply for withdrawal from a course with a W (non-penalty) grade

Other things to note:

- Late-Adds will not be accepted after the Late-Add period under any circumstances (except for acknowledged College error).
- All students should read carefully and thoroughly the 2011-2012 *Brooklyn College Bulletin*, especially pp. 27-74, for a complete listing of academic regulations of the College.

# How to Download LogiCola

You'll do much homework on computer using the LogiCola program, which runs in Windows, Macintosh, or Linux. To download LogiCola, go to:

<http://www.harryhiker.com/lc>

Windows	Macintosh	Linux
		
Click where it says "click here."	Click "Macintosh" at the top of the page.	Click "Linux" at the top of the page.

If you want to run LogiCola:

- on a single computer: then just install it to that computer.
- on several computers: then you can install it to a USB flash drive. Or you can install it on multiple computers (not on a flash drive) and keep scoring and configuration data in sync on these computers using Cloud Sync; see LogiCola's OPTIONS menu (you'll need to install a free Dropbox on each desktop).



After you install LogiCola, click the cola-can icon to start the program.

When you take each quiz, give your teacher your scores by e-mail (see LogiCola's TOOLS menu) or on a USB flash drive.