

# syllabus

## *Introductory Formal Logic*

Thursday 6:30-9PM

3411 Boylan Hall

### OVERVIEW:

This is an introductory course in formal logic. You will learn how to construct deductive arguments using formal notation and check for their validity and soundness using various methods.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To demonstrate an ability to translate English propositions into formal notation and vice versa;
2. To be able to analyze arguments in English and formal notation in terms of validity and soundness using the truth-table and truth-tree methods;
3. To define/explain various logical concepts such as validity, set consistency, etc.

### GRADE BREAKDOWN:

10% - PARTICIPATION (WORKING AT THE BOARD)  
 20% - POP-QUIZZES (LOWEST GRADE DROPPED OFF)  
 15% - HOMEWORK (TO BE SUBMITTED ON BLACKBOARD)  
 20% - MIDTERM (TAKE-HOME)  
 35% - FINAL EXAM (IN-CLASS, CUMULATIVE)

**REQUIRED TEXT:** The Logic Book, 5th Ed., Merrie Bergmann et al, editors, available at the BC Bookstore.

### COURSE POLICIES:

**ABSENCES:** you are allowed **up to three** unexcused absences. Any other unexcused absences will adversely affect your grade. Excessive absences both excused and unexcused will also affect your grade.

**MISSED EXAMS:** there will be **NO make-up quizzes** unless you can provide legitimate proof of extenuating circumstances. Late midterm will be penalized.

**LATENESS:** habitual tardiness will impact your grade. Arriving after 6:30PM is extremely disruptive and will, therefore, be counted as ½ of an absence.

**EMAILING PROCEDURES:** you are always welcome to email me with any course-related questions. However, you **MUST** adhere to the following rules:

1. The **SUBJECT must** contain the title of the course (Phil 3203) and your **FULL NAME**;

2. Your email should be brief and clear and state exactly what your question/issue/concern is;
3. Your email should NOT contain any assignments unless I specifically request them;
4. You must state your FULL NAME in your email.

If you do not stick to these rules, chances are your message will remain unanswered.

**OFFICE HOURS:** all meetings except in rare circumstances **must be by appointment only** in 3316B.

**CELL PHONES & PDAS:** all cell phones, pagers, PDAs, etc. **must be turned off** at the beginning of class **and put away**. Any ringing, clicking, or vibrating cell phone will result in the user's exclusion from class activities and an automatic absence. No text-messaging, picture-taking, or any other behavior unrelated to class activities will be tolerated.

**UNIVERSITY'S POLICY ON 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 this site: <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.

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

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 your professor with the course accommodation form and discuss your specific accommodation with him/her.

**OTHER ACADEMIC REGULATIONS:**

Consult pp. 35-51, pp. 52-59, and pp. 74-83 in the Brooklyn College Bulletin, for a complete listing of academic regulations of the College.

## COURSE CALENDAR:

THU 1/31	Introduction Chapter 1
THU 2/7	Chapter 1 Chapter 2
<b>THU 2/14 - NC</b>	<b>No Class – Tuesday Schedule</b>
THU 2/21	Chapter 2
THU 2/28	Chapter 2
<b>THU 3/7</b>	<b><i>Evening Common Hour – class starts at 6:50PM</i></b> Chapter 2 Chapter 3
THU 3/14	Chapter 3
THU 3/21	Chapter 3
<b>THU 3/28 - NC</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>
THU 4/4	Chapter 3 Chapter 4 <b>Midterms Due</b>
THU 4/11	Chapter 4
THU 4/18	Chapter 4
THU 4/25	Chapter 4
THU 5/2	Chapter 7
THU 5/9	Chapter 7
THU 5/16	Chapter 7 <b>Final Exam Review</b>
<b>THU 5/23</b>	<b>Final Exam 6-8PM</b>