

Philosophy 12A Syllabus

May 25, 2010

1 Instructor Information

Professor	GSIs
Branden Fitelson 132 Moses Hall (510) 296-5891 office hours: 3:30-5 W email: branden@fitelson.org www: http://fitelson.org/	Justin Bledin Richard Lawrence [See the course home page for the contact information and office hours of our GSIs.]



The best way to reach Branden is via email (I check it all the time).

2 Textbook & Supplemental Materials

We will be using Graeme Forbes's 1994 Oxford University Press text *Modern Logic*. The fourth printing of this book is available in both new and used vintages from our campus bookstores (or, of course, amazon.com).



Everyone should buy a copy of our textbook, as soon as possible.

Occasionally, I will supplement the text with my own handouts. And, my lectures will be posted the morning before each class. I will not distribute paper copies of my handouts or lectures to the class (except for this syllabus!). Electronic versions of all lecture notes and handouts will be posted on the *Philosophy 12A Lecture Notes & Handouts Page* at

<http://fitelson.org/12A/notes.html>

All notes and handouts will be posted in Adobe Acrobat PDF format, and will require Adobe's Reader software (version 3.01 or later) to be viewed, printed, etc. All campus computers should have Reader.

3 What, When, Where, Why?

Philosophy 12A consists of three 2.5-hour lectures [1-3:30 pm Tu/Wed/Th @ 9 Lewis], and two 2.5-hour discussion sections per week. We will arrange section locations and rosters during the first week of class. Keep an eye on our *Sections Page* (and on your email!) for details about discussion section times and places, at:

<http://fitelson.org/12A/sections.html>

Attendance will not figure explicitly into your final grade. But, since the summer course moves a rather fast pace, I strongly encourage regular attendance of both lectures and sections. The objective of this course is to become proficient at "elementary" formal reasoning in first-order logic. My lectures will usually be rather closely tied to the text. And, if you are able to solve all the exercises in the text, then you should do pretty well on the homeworks and the exams, because:



The vast majority of homework & exam exercises will be taken directly from the text.

4 Grades, Assignments, Exams, and all that...

4.1 The Basic Structure of the Course

We will have (i) weekly homework assignments, (ii) a mid-term examination, and (iii) a final examination. All Assignments and (sample) Exams will be posted at:

<http://fitelson.org/12A/assignments.html>

Your final grade in the course will be an *equally weighted average* of your performance on these three things. We will be grading "on a curve" which means that a $\frac{65}{100}$ might end-up being a "B," depending on how the class does (statistically). After each grading episode, I will try to give you a rough idea of where "A"s, "B"s, etc. would fall on our numerical scale for each assignment/exam (as well as cumulatively).

4.2 Details about Homeworks

On Thursdays, I will assign some exercises (usually from the text) as homework (these will be posted prior to class on the assignments page above). These exercises will be due the following Thursday. We will return your (graded) papers the Monday immediately after the Thursday they are due (in section). We will drop the lowest homework score (of the six), but...



*Late homeworks will not be accepted.*¹

4.3 Group Work and Individual Work

We *urge* people to work in groups on homework assignments. In fact, we will award bonus points to people who work in groups on homeworks. See the separate “Working in Groups” handout:

<http://fitelson.org/12A/groups.html>
or
<http://fitelson.org/12A/groups.pdf>

for all of the rules, regulations, and details concerning group work. Make sure to read that document carefully.

5 Tentative Course Schedule

We will be following the text pretty closely. But, the course will evolve dynamically as the semester unfolds. Keep a close eye on the course Home Page for announcements about the course schedule (and other developments pertinent to the course). Aside from making announcements in lectures, the Home Page will be the mechanism by which I will keep you informed as to where we are in the course (and where we’re going next).

<http://fitelson.org/12A/index.html>

Basically, my plan is to cover as much of *Modern Logic* chapters 1-8 as we can in our 6 weeks. We may not finish all eight chapters (most of chapters 1-7, and *some* of chapter 8), and we will be skipping a few sections along the way. All details about the evolution of the course will be announced both in class and on the Home Page — as we go along. So, stay tuned...

6 bspace Site

I have created a bspace site for the course. It will be used only for keeping track of grades. All other information will be posted on the official course website, above. Using your Calnet ID, you should already be able to login to our course bspace account from the following URL. You will only be able to view your own grades (and no other information).

<https://bspace.berkeley.edu/>

7 Class Email List

I will also maintain a *class email list*, which I will use from time to time to disseminate information to the class as a whole. Make sure that the email address you have recorded in the Berkeley database is the one you actually use. See:

<https://calnet.berkeley.edu/directory/update/>

8 MacLogic Software

Modern Logic was designed to be compatible with the Macintosh logic program MacLogic, which is very useful for learning how to do natural deduction proofs in the systems described in Forbes’s *Modern Logic*. A fully *Modern Logic*-compatible version of MacLogic is available for download (both for Macs and PCs). You won’t need to worry about MacLogic until we get to chapter 4 (our first natural deductions). And, even then, you will *not* be *required* to use MacLogic. I will offer extra-credit to those students who wish to use MacLogic to check and construct natural deduction proofs. I have found that students who use MacLogic learn how to do natural deduction proofs more effectively than those who do not use MacLogic. Moreover, once you construct a proof using MacLogic, you know it is correct (which avoids typos completely). If you get curious, have a look at my “Running MacLogic under Emulation” page, which explains how to run MacLogic on most platforms:

<http://fitelson.org/maclogic.htm>

¹Exceptions will be made only in cases where a legitimate excuse or extenuating circumstance exists.