2018

Zero Textbook Cost Syllabus for PHI 1600 (Logic and Moral Reasoning)

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CUNY Bernard M Baruch College

Fall 2018 Alex R. Steers-McCrum
Thursdays 2:30-3:45

PHI 1600: Logic and Moral Reasoning

Semester: Fall 2018
Professor: Alex R. Steers-McCrum
Room:

COURSE WEBSITE: logic.baruchsites.com

GRADE BREAKDOWN:

Homework: 20%
Midterm Exam: 30%
Final Exam: 50%

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TOTAL: 100%
+ Participation: 10%

Class Goals:
To familiarize you with formal and informal logic. Logic illustrates and explores the connections between ideas. It can help us evaluate our beliefs and make and understand arguments. Aside from its use in philosophy, logic is of particular importance in mathematics and law, and is foundational for computer science.

Zero-Cost Textbook (ZCT) Course:
The textbook and all other materials for this course is provided ONLINE, free of charge. There are no out-of-pocket or extra expenses associated with this course.

Open Educational Resources (OER) Course:
The textbook and other materials associated with this course are licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License. (See the website or follow this link for more details.) You are free to keep, use, share and adapt the course materials for non-commercial purposes in accordance with the CC license.

Hybrid Course:
This course will only meet in person on Thursdays for review sessions. Video lectures are provided on the course website. The course textbook can also be found on the website, under

"About." Additionally, (ungraded, optional) practice exercises and (graded, mandatory) homework problems are provided online. Attendance is not required for this course but is recommended. Participation (asking/answering questions, doing proofs on the board, etc.) is a good way to earn extra points. In-class sessions will generally consist of review of the homework and content.

Website Details:
In order to log in to the website, you will receive an email containing a random password. This is the only thing you need to log in, but it cannot be changed. **Do not lose your password!** If you do lose your password, just let me know and I can look it up.

It is recommended that, as much as possible, you access the website on Google Chrome from a PC, especially when doing homework. Other browsers, operating systems, and hardware may not be supported. Using (say) Safari on your iPhone to do the homework is a good way to run into technical difficulties.

If you encounter a problem with the website (e.g., the videos are not displaying, you are getting 404 errors, etc.), you may notify me, or email **baruchlogicadmin@gmail.com** and describe the issue.

Homework:
Homework assignments can be found on the website and will be announced in class. They will be due at the **start of class time** (2:30pm) on **Thursdays**. Late homework cannot be submitted (with exceptions for technical difficulties), as the website simply will not record your score.

Until the deadline, the homework is repeatable—that is, you can keep trying until you get a score you're satisfied with. If you had infinite time, you could probably just guess and get 100% on the homeworks…but though that may be less effort than learning, it is certainly more time—and will likely result in failing the exams, which are much more important for your grade than the homework (only worth 20% of your grade)! So game the system to your own detriment.

After the midterm, Natural Deduction homework can be handed in by e-mail as late as the day after class (Fridays). Full credit will be given for fully complete homework and answer keys will be distributed.

Exams:
Fully 80% of your grade comes from two in-class exams. The Midterm will be worth 30% of the grade and will cover about half of the class. The Final will be worth 50% and will be **comprehensive**, covering the whole semester, but with emphasis on material not covered by the Midterm.

Participation:

Attendance and class participation are strictly extra credit. If you can learn logic without attending class, more power to you! For most of us, though, participation and learning go hand in hand. Attending sessions, and asking questions (including by e-mail), and especially working with classmates can earn you extra credit, up to 10% of your grade.

Grades:

If you kept score in the sections above, you saw that it is possible to get 110/100 in this class with a perfect score on everything, including class participation. This is meant to add a certain amount of grace into the grading process, as missing (or failing) a couple small assignments can tank your grade pretty quickly.

A+	N/A	A	93-105	A-	90-92
B+	87-89	B	83-86	B-	80-82
C+	77-79	C	73-76	C-	70-72
D+	67-69	D	63-66	D-	60-62
F+	There is no F+	F	59 and below		

Contact and Office Hours:

Please contact me via e-mail. Office hours are by appointment after or before class on Tuesdays and Thursdays. I am not on campus any other days. I also have a box in the Philosophy Department Office.

Rules, Expectations, and Such:

Philosophy has rules and so do classrooms. One of philosophy's best rules is called the "principle of charity." This means that when someone else says or writes something, assume they have a good idea what they're talking about, even if you disagree. When you aren't sure what they mean, interpret them as fairly as you can. In the classroom, this means take other people's comments and questions seriously, even if they don't make sense to you at first. When you do disagree, do so politely.

Bring a notebook and some pens to class, even if you mostly take notes on a laptop/tablet/phone. Logic should often be done by hand.

Don't spend the whole class texting/buying stuff on eBay/Facebooking/Snapchatting/whatever else it is that people do. A quick message is one thing. Not participating in class is another. Since class isn't mandatory…why show up if you aren't here to learn?

Don't interrupt other students.

There are no stupid questions…but there are rude ones. Philosophy is for questions. Intro classes are for questions. The more you ask, the more we all learn. But…don't be that person who asks a question that was just answered because you weren't paying attention!

Go out on a limb. Be wrong. Have fun.

For Students with Disabilities:

Baruch College has an office dedicated to serving Baruch Students with disabilities. If you identify as an individual with a disability, and you wish to request accommodations or academic adjustments in order to meet the academic requirements of this course, please visit Student Disability Services, Newman Vertical Campus, Room 2-271, or call (646) 312-4590. Being registered with Student Disability Services is confidential, and is not recorded on your Baruch Academic Record.

Check out the SDS website:
http://www.baruch.cuny.edu/studentaffairs/ossd/disabilityServices.htm

Students who are pregnant are entitled to "reasonable" (no idea if they are) accommodations:
http://www.baruch.cuny.edu/facultyhandbook/documents/Pregnant_Parenting_Students.pdf

If you feel or suspect (or know for sure, of course) that you have been discriminated against on account of disability, contact: diversity@baruch.cuny.edu.

Academic Support Services:

Baruch College has a number of opportunities that you are encouraged to take advantage of in case you find yourself needing help in this or any class—for whatever reason—including:
Peer Tutoring http://www.baruch.cuny.edu/sacc/
The Writing Center https://writingcenter.baruch.cuny.edu/
Tools for Clear Speech (for English language learners and nonnative English speakers) https://tfcs.baruch.cuny.edu/
Comprehensive academic advisement http://www.baruch.cuny.edu/undergraduate-advisement-and-orientation/

Are things easy for you? Some of these places are hiring…there's no better way to learn something than to teach it.

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COURSE SCHEDULE: All Meetings on Thursdays

Week	Reading/Video/Topic	Homework
1	**8/30 Course Introduction**	N/A
2	**9/6 Introduction to Logic** Read: I.1 Watch: 1.1-1.5	Homework #1 (online)
3	**9/13 Validity, Soundness, Strength, Cogency** Read: I.2 Watch: 2.1-2.3	Homework #2 (online)
4	**9/20 Logical Fallacies** Read: I.3 Watch: 3.1-3.2 and 4.1-4.2	Homework #3 - #4 (online) Note: Possibly week 4 will be split into two sessions. I will let you know if the schedule changes.
5	**9/27 Symbolic Logic Notation** Read: II.1 Watch: 6.1	Homework #5 (online) **Note:** The class gets much more difficult here.
6	**10/4 Truth Tables** Read: II.2 Watch: 6.2	Homework #6 (online)
7	**10/11 Truth Tables and Validity** Read: II.3	Homework #7 (online)
8	**10/18 [class cancelled]**	Midterm Study Guide (not for credit)
9	**10/25 Midterm Review** (date adjusted)	Review for Midterm
10	**11/1 MIDTERM** (date adjusted)	
11	**11/8 Natural Deduction 1 (basics and Rules of Inference)** Read: III.1 Watch: 8.1	Homework #8 (ND practice Rules 1-5)
12	**11/15 Natural Deduction 2 (Rules of Inference and Replacement** Read: III.2	Homework #9 (ND practice Rules 6-11)
13	**11/22 NO CLASS -- Thanksgiving**	Homework #10 (ND practice Rules 12-18)
14	**11/29 Natural Deduction 3 (Rules of Replacement and Indirect/Conditional Proofs)**	Homework #11 (ND practice IP & CP)
15	**12/6 FINAL Review**	Final Study Guide (not for credit)
16	**FINAL EXAM:** take-home	Distribution TBA