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

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Instructor: **Gerrit Jan Kamperdyk**

Feel free to address me by my first name.

Mailbox:

My mailbox is *above* my name.

Email:

Please use that address for all class business.

Please send an email ASAP with *your name* as subject, so I can create a mailing list.

My teaching schedule this semester is:

Phi 1600	Logic and Moral Reasoning	Mon. and Wed.	10:45 to 12:00
Phi 1100	Ethics and Critical Thinking	Mon. and Wed.	12:50 to 12:00
Phi 3270	Computer Ethics	Mon. and Wed.	2:30 to 3:45

Office Hours: I am at Baruch only on Mondays and Wednesdays. *Official office hours are: Wednesday 10:00 to 10:30 and 12:20 to 12:50.* Also, those times on some Mondays. I will usually be available for awhile right after my Computer Ethics class. If asked, I can often make arrangements to stay around Baruch even later in the day.

Optional Text: Bergmann, Moor and Nelson's *The Logic Book*, McGraw Hill is the optional text. Any edition from edition 3 up will be fine. Edition 4 used and ordered online will probably be the least costly option (it should come with a CD of answers to the exercises). If you have trouble learning merely from the lectures, you may find that you will need to purchase the text. Handouts will be distributed by email. The lectures will be all be essential to learn what you will need to know for the exams. There may be reserve readings for the Moral Reasoning unit, at the end of the course. **Please print-out and bring all handouts to class.**

Attendance: It is important that you attend *every* class. If you miss two classes in a row, you may fall hopelessly behind. I reserve the right to lower grades or fail students whose attendance is bad. Baruch has an official policy on absences, which I reserve the right to implement. **If you don't attend, you will probably not do well on the exams.** If illness or emergency will lead you to miss several classes, let me know ASAP by email, so we can make sure you can keep up with the work. **Electronic devices may not be used during class – no phones, laptops or tablets.** Sorry, it's the only way to prevent web surfing during class.



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Exams: There will be several exams during the semester and a final exam. **Make-up exams might not be scheduled, or might be marked down.** If it is not possible to attend class the day of an exam, please let me know as soon as possible *before* the exam. I usually provide practice exams that indicate some of the types of questions on the real exams. Practice tests will give you *some* sense of what the exams will look like, but I don't promise that they will cover *100%* of the exams' content.

Grading: Your grade will be based on three exams. The first test will be worth 1/3 of your grade. The second will be 1/4 and the final exam will be 5/12. I reserve the right to deviate from the grading formula (*10% up or down*) to reflect effort, consistency, improvement, attendance, and/or participation. I may call on students randomly in class. However, I usually give *exactly* the grade earned from exams. Academic probation, possible loss of financial aid, and delayed graduation will not be taken into account in assigning grades. If these are issues, and if you are having difficulties, get help early.

Cheating: **NO CHEATING WILL BE TOLERATED !** If a student is caught cheating, I will reserve the right to respond in any way allowed by the administration, including giving a failing grade for the test, giving a D or an F for entire the course, and/or reporting the student to the administration for disciplinary action. (Allowing someone to copy your work and supplying answers to another are also forms of cheating, and will be treated the same way.) **I take this very seriously. I have failed people for cheating. Cheating is wrong.** If I suspect copying during an exam, I will move *several* people so that the suspect is not singled out – *thus if I move someone, it doesn't mean that that person is suspected of cheating.* I also may move several people even if I don't suspect cheating.

Advice: The pace will be very fast. Don't fall behind. The best way to ensure a good grade is to attend *every* class, to do practice work, to study the text and handouts a little between each class, and to ask questions in class *before* you fall behind. If you have trouble, it may be because you are approaching the material in the wrong way. Often, just a few minutes in office hours can clear this up and make everything fall into place. Feel free to ask questions during the lecture. Also your fellow students are also a good resource - you can learn a lot from each other -- *but not during the exams.* (Also, teaching others is the best way to learn the material yourself.)

Finally: Relax and try to enjoy the class. Don't let the material intimidate you. Most of the concepts are pretty simple if you think about them the right way. Oh, and don't cheat.