

Logic

1 Course Information

- Course number: PHI 2100
- Section 01FC
- Period 10 (5:10 PM - 6:00 PM)
- Location: Zoom
- Instructor: Rodrigo Borges
- Office: Zoom
- Contact Information: rodrigo.borges@ufl.edu.

NOTE: it is your responsibility to read this document carefully. This is an agreement between you and your instructor. If you email me about something that is obviously stated in the syllabus, you will either receive no answer or I will reply, simply, "Read the syllabus!" However, if you read the syllabus and you still do not have an answer, then email me with your question.

This syllabus and other materials for this course are available on Canvas.

2 Course Goals

The main goal of this course is to introduce students to formal logic, its applications to language and reasoning. To that end, we will study the syntax and semantics of sentential logic. Students will also be introduced to derivations in sentential logic. Finally, students will become familiar with some of the more informal methods of reasoning and argumentation (such as the proper use of analogies and counterexamples).

3 Course Requirements

Seven different instruments will be used in order to measure student progress through the course. The name of each instrument, and the relative weight each of them carries in determining your final grade is the following; a brief description of each instrument follows.

Assignment	Total Number	% of Course Grade
Tests	15	20%
Surprise Quizzes	?	10%
Midterm	1	20%
Final	1	20%
Polls	35	10%
Homework	at least 15	10%
Discussion Board Participation	15	10%

3.1 Attendance and Classroom Policies

Students are expected to attend class and to have done all assigned reading in advance. Failure to do so will adversely affect students' ability to perform well in this course.

Although attendance is not required, it is expected. Polls and surprise quizzes will be conducted during class (see below for details).

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

- <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

3.2 Textbook

The textbook for the course is *Essentials of Symbolic Logic*, 3rd edition (ISBN: 1-55111-893-9), by R. L. Simpson.

3.3 Tests

Students will be divided in groups with 4–5 students. Groups (not necessarily the same ones) will work on fourteen (14) tests during the course. Each week will have a test on Friday. The leader of each group will be responsible for posting a file with the answers to each test to Canvas by 11:59 PM on Friday. I will keep the twelve (12) best grades and drop the lowest two (2).

Tests will be distributed in class. Only students with a valid excuse will be allowed to make up for a missed test.

3.4 Surprise Quizzes

There will be unspecified number of in-class surprise quizzes. Those will be on the reading assigned for the day of the quiz. There are no make-up surprise quizzes, but none will be given on religious holidays. Surprise quizzes will receive a pass/fail grade. Although, the quality of your answer will not be directly assessed. Only *real answers* will be get a 'pass'. By a 'real answer' I mean something that (at least) tries to help someone wondering about the question in the quiz. Submitting your name, or a message such as 'Sorry, but I don't know the answer' will result in a 'fail'.

Students must take at least 60% of the quizzes in order to receive a perfect 10. For the purpose of grade, 'fail' will be the same as an absence. The point distribution scale is given by the following table:

Proportion of Quizzes	Points
at least 60%	10
60-50%	8
50-40%	6
40-30%	4
30-0%	0

You can consult any notes you took on the readings, or the readings themselves. The quiz will last only 10 minutes and it might take place at any moment during class.

3.5 Midterm and Final

There will be one (1) midterm exam, and one (1) final exam. They will both be "take-home" exams.

3.6 Poll and iClicker

There will be polls in class throughout the semester. Your overall poll grade will count for 10% of your grade for the course.

Polls will use the iClicker system. For information on this system, please see

- <https://classrooms.at.ufl.edu/classroom-technology/iclicker-response-system/>

For this class, you will use the iClicker Reef application, either on a smartphone or a computer.

You must register your clicker as soon as possible, but certainly before the first graded poll on Wednesday 9/9/20. See the iClicker registration page for more details.

There will be no poll in the first week of the semester, to give everyone time to acquire the application.

There will be ungraded polls in the second week of the semester, to allow you to check your clicker is working properly. At all times during the semester, it is your responsibility to make sure that you have your clicker with you, and that it is working properly. Makeup polls will not be given for clicker problems.

Starting on Wednesday 9/9/20, there will be at least two graded poll questions in every lecture. Typically, the first question will be soon after class begins, and the second will be at the end of class. For each question, you will receive two points for a correct answer, one for an incorrect answer, and zero for not answering.

You will receive a poll grade for each lecture from 9/9/20. Your three (3) lowest scores will be dropped. The remaining scores will each count equally towards your poll grade. Dropping those three lowest scores will allow for occasional absences. Make-up polls will only be given if you have an appropriate excuse that shows you had to miss two or more classes during the semester.

Unless otherwise determined by your instructor, polls are individual assignments. You may not consult other students while taking an individual poll. You may not use someone else's clicker for them, or have someone else use your clicker. These are violations of academic honesty (see section 5 below).

3.7 Homework

Homework will be posted on Canvas right after class, usually at least once a week. Answers are due on Canvas by 5:00 PM on the following day of class. So, for example, if homework is assigned at the end of class on a Monday, then your answers will be due 5:00 PM on Wednesday.

Unless they have a valid excuse, students will not be allowed to make up missed homework.

3.8 Participation in Discussion Boards

You are required to come up with an appropriate question about the material (readings and/or lectures) in at least five (5) different discussion boards. Questions must be submitted by midnight Sunday. You will not be able to see the discussion board and others' submitted questions until you have submitted your own.

(NOTE: each discussion board will allow only ten (10) posts.)

Once you have access to the discussion board, you should read what other questions students have posted. Think about which questions you would most like to see answered, and then use the 'like' function to indicate those you most want addressed. You should complete this by Thursday evening, since your vote will inform the discussion in class on Friday.

The quality of your question in that discussion board is not a factor in determining your grade. What *is* a factor in determining your grade is following: whether or not

you submit appropriate questions for at least six of the discussion boards. Here's what makes a question an appropriate one.

There are two requirements.

1. *Specificity*: your question must be reasonably specific. That is, it must refer to some particular point in the material introduced that week. You will not get away with open-ended questions like 'What is A's view about X?'
2. *Precision*: your question must fit into one of the categories below. When you post your question, you must indicate which category it belongs to. (You can simply put the name of the category at the start of your question.)
 - *Clarification*: questions of clarification ask for help in understanding a specific point or passage in the lectures or readings. For example, you might ask, 'Why does Descartes bring up the discussion of an "evil demon" set on deceiving him if he doesn't actually think such a demon exists? How could that demon be relevant to his argument if he doesn't think it's real?'
 - *Significance*: questions of significance ask how a particular view or argument in a reading or lecture might have broader significance – that is, how it might have relevance for other things that aren't explicitly addressed in the readings or lectures. For example, you might ask, 'If Descartes is right that we don't know anything about the external world, does that mean that we should never trust what science tells us? Does it mean that we should live as if every day is our last day? What difference would it make if he's right?'
 - *Criticism*: questions in this category proposes a criticism of some argument or claim made in a reading or lecture. For example, you might ask, 'Descartes thinks we can't know at the moment that we're not just dreaming everything, but this seems to me false. If I flap my arms right now and don't find myself flying around like in a dream, doesn't that show that I'm not just dreaming?'

If you submit an appropriate question for at least five of the regular discussion boards, your participation grade is a perfect 10. You lose one point for each question shy of six you fail to submit. If you submit less than three questions, you get zero (0) points.

4 Grade Scale

See UF grading policies for assigning grade points at:

- <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

	Grade Scale	Grade Value
A	100 - 93	4.00
A-	92 - 90	3.67
B+	89 - 86	3.33
B	85 - 82	3.00
B-	81 - 79	2.67
C+	78 - 75	2.33
C	75 - 72	2.00
C-	71 - 69	1.67
D+	68 - 66	1.33
D	65 - 62	1.00
D-	61 - 60	0.67
E	59 - 0	0.00

5 Academic Honesty

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge, which states, ‘We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: ‘On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.’ The Honor Code

- <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>

specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class. Plagiarism on any assignment will automatically result in a grade of ‘E’ for the course. Plagiarism is defined in the University of Florida’s Student Honor Code as follows: ‘A student shall not represent as the student’s own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes (but is not limited to): a. Quoting oral or written materials, whether published or unpublished, without proper attribution. b. Submitting a document or assignment which in whole or in part is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment not authored by the student.’ Students found guilty of academic misconduct will be prosecuted in accordance with the procedures specified in the UF honesty policy.

6 Students with disabilities

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drp>). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

7 Online course evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester. Students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.

8 Office Hours

I strongly encourage you to set up a meeting to discuss anything related to the course. I will hold office hours on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 10:30 – 11:30 AM (or by appointment). To set up an appointment please email me at: rodrigo.borges@ufl.edu.

9 Technical Issues

Please, direct any questions about technical issues you might have to UF Helpdesk. The website is <https://helpdesk.ufl.edu/>. You may also call them at 352 392 4357.

10 Campus Resources

- Health and Wellness:
 1. U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter, We Care website (www.umatter.ufl.edu) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
 2. Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website (www.counseling.ufl.edu) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

3. Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the Student Health Care Center website (www.shcc.ufl.edu).
4. University Police Department: Visit UF Police Department website (www.police.ufl.edu) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
5. UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website (www.ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center).

II Academic Resources

1. E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
2. Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.
3. Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
4. Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352-392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
5. Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
6. Student Complaints On-Campus: Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage ([here](#)) for more information.
7. On-Line Students Complaints: View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process (www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help/student-complaint-process).

12 Class Schedule (Subject to Change)

[SEE UP-TO-DATE SCHEDULE ON CANVAS FOR DUE DATES.]

1. ARGUMENTS

8/31 – Stan Baronett: chapter 1

9/2 – Stan Baronett: chapter 1

9/4 – Test 1

9/7 – Holiday (Labor Day)

9/9 – Stan Baronett: chapter 1

9/11 – Test 2

2. DEDUCTION: VALIDITY AND SOUNDNESS

9/14 – Stan Baronett: chapter 1

9/16 – Stan Baronett: chapter 1

9/18 – Test 3

3. INDUCTION: STRENGTH AND COGENCY

9/21 – Stan Baronett: chapter 1

9/23 – Stan Baronett: chapter 1

9/25 – Test 4

4. SENTENCE LOGIC: TRANSLATION

9/28 – R.L Simpson: chapter 2

9/30 – R.L Simpson: chapter 2

10/2 – Test 5

10/5 – R.L Simpson: chapter 2

10/7 – R.L Simpson: chapter 2

10/9 – Test 6

10/12 – R.L Simpson: chapter 2

10/14 – R.L Simpson: chapter 2

10/16 – Test 7

10/19 – R.L Simpson: chapter 2

10/21 – R.L Simpson: chapter 2
10/23 – Test 8

5. SENTENCE LOGIC: TRUTH-TABLES

10/26 – R.L Simpson: chapter 2
10/28 – R.L Simpson: chapter 2
10/30 – Test 9

11/2 – R.L Simpson: chapter 2
11/4 – R.L Simpson: chapter 2
11/6 – Test 10

6. SENTENCE LOGIC: DERIVATIONS

11/9 – R.L Simpson: chapter 3
11/11 – Holiday (Veterans Day)
11/13 – Test 11

11/16 – R.L Simpson: chapter 3
11/18 – R.L Simpson: chapter 3
11/20 – Test 12
11/23 – R.L Simpson: chapter 3
11/25 – Holiday
11/27 – Holiday

11/30 – R.L Simpson: chapter 3
12/2 – R.L Simpson: chapter 3
12/4 – Test 13

12/7 – R.L Simpson: chapter 3
12/9 – Test 14