



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

## PHIL 473 Lec 01 – “Philosophy of Logic”

Fall Term 2014

### Course Outline

Lectures: MWF 10:00-10:50 in SA 119

**Instructor:** Dr. Anders Kraal (Dr. Nicole Wyatt)

**Office:** Social Sciences 1206

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**Office Hours:** Monday/Friday 11:00-12:00

### Course Description

This course comprises three main parts. In Part I we discuss the general question “What is logic?” from the point of view of the history of logic and contemporary logical theory. In Part II we ponder some main philosophical issues connected to key logical concepts used in standard systems of formal logic, e.g. conditionality, disjunction, negation, universal and existential quantification, necessity, and identity. In Part III we survey some recent challenges to the orthodox view that there is only one correct logic and that all contradictions are necessarily false.

### Evaluation and grading

#### *Writing assignments*

There will be four short writing assignments, due Sept 22, Oct 6, Oct 20, and Nov 3; a midterm paper, due Nov 17; and a final paper, due Dec 5.

There will be no Registrar-scheduled final exam.

The writing assignments and midterm and final papers will be on topics covered in the lectures and expanded on in the readings. You will be given a choice of topics for the midterm and final papers. Midterm and final papers must be handed in to pass the course. All short writing assignments and papers are due before 4 pm on the date indicated in a drop-box labeled for this course and located in the main hallway of the Philosophy Department (12<sup>th</sup> floor, Social Sciences Building).

#### *Evaluation and grades*

The four short writing assignments are worth altogether 50% of the final grade (or 12.5% each); the midterm paper 20% of the final grade; and the final paper 30% of the final grade. On each of these assignments you will receive a letter grade. “Slash grades” may occur (e.g. “A/B”). +/- may appear in the final grade. The meanings of letter grades amount roughly to the following criteria:

A Excellent – superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.

B Good – clearly above average performance.

C Satisfactory – basic understanding of the subject matter.

D Minimal pass – marginal performance.

F Fail – unsatisfactory performance.

The quality of your writing will be a factor in grading. If you use terminology ambiguously, for example, you are likely to receive a lower mark.

### *Grading Scheme*

The final grade will be the letter grade corresponding to the weighted average of your assignments and papers plus a margin of 0.2. For the final grade, +'s and -'s are possible; as defined in the Calendar, +/- adds/subtracts 0.3 grade points. In other words, a course average of 3.8 or higher receives an A; between 3.5 and 3.8, an A-; between 3.1 and 3.5, a B+; between 2.8 and 3.1, a B; and so on. There is no D- grade; to earn a D you require a course average of at least 0.8. The A+ grade is reserved for “truly outstanding” performance. In computing your final grade, your marks will be converted to grade points and averaged according to the weights given above. The correspondence of letter grades with grade points is defined in the Calendar (A = 4, B = 3, C = 2, D = 1, F = 0). “Slash” grades receive 0.5 below the value of the higher grade (e.g., A/B = 3.5).

### **Policy on Late Assignments**

Late assignments will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Where prior permission has not been obtained for handing in a late assignment, the grade will be docked 1/2 of a letter grade per day.

### **Required Texts**

#### *Primary course material*

Read, Stephen, *Thinking about logic: An introduction to the philosophy of logic*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010. (Available in the university bookstore.)

#### *Additional course material*

Some additional course material – with readings from e.g. Wittgenstein, Tarski, Dummett, David Lewis, Graham Priest and Tim Williamson – will be accessible online via the University Library, or will be made accessible via D2L.

# Tentative Syllabus

*(Reading assignments for each week will be posted on D2L well in advance.)*

## PART I: What is logic?

Week 1 (Sept 8, 10, 12): Aristotle, Kant, Frege and Russell on logical truth and logical consequence

Week 2 (Sept 15, 17, 19): Wittgenstein, Carnap and Ayer on logical truth and logical consequence

### Short writing assignment #1 (due Sept 22)

Week 3 (Sept 22, 24, 26): Tarski on logical truth

Week 4 (Sept 29, Oct 1, 3): Tarski on logical consequence

### Short writing assignment #2 (due Oct 6)

Week 5 (Oct 6, 8, 10): Proof-theoretic vs. model-theoretic accounts of logical consequence

Week 6 (Oct 15, 17): Reasons-based vs. ontological accounts of logical consequence

### Short writing assignment #3 (due Oct 20)

Week 7 (Oct 20, 22, 24): Philosophical issues pertaining to the modern formalization project

## PART II: Some key logical concepts

Week 8 (Oct 27, 29, 31): Philosophical issues pertaining to the logic of “or,” “not,” and “if... then”

### Short writing assignment #4 (due Nov 3)

Week 9 (Nov 3, 5, 7): Philosophical issues pertaining to the logic of “all,” “some” and “there is”

Week 10 (Nov 12, 14): Philosophical issues pertaining to the logic of “necessarily” and “possibly”

### Midterm paper (due Nov 17)

## PART III: Some recent topics in the philosophy of logic

Week 11 (Nov 17, 19, 21): Logical Pluralism

Week 12 (Nov 24, 26, 28): Dialetheism

Week 13 (Dec 1, 3, 5): (Yet to be decided)

### Final paper (due Dec 5)

### Academic Honesty

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as an extremely serious academic offence, the penalty for which may be an F on the assignment, an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw from the University. See the relevant sections on 'Academic Misconduct' in the current University Calendar. Intellectual honesty requires that your work include adequate referencing to sources. Plagiarism occurs when you do not acknowledge or correctly reference your sources. If you have questions about correct referencing, consult your instructor.

### Academic Accommodation

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a permanent disability or temporary impairment who may require academic accommodation, you must first register with the Student Accessibility Resource Office located in MacEwan Student Centre 452; phone 403-220-8237; email [access@ucalgary.ca](mailto:access@ucalgary.ca). Students who have not registered with the Student Accessibility Office are not eligible for academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course. Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/> for further information.

### D2L Help

Desire2Learn is the University of Calgary's learning management system which has now replaced BlackBoard. Go to <http://www.elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/> for help in using Desire2Learn.

### Student Advising and Information Resources

- General Academic Concerns and Program Planning— Have a question but not sure where to start? The Faculty of Arts' Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts. Drop in at SS110, call 403-220-3580, or email [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). Advisors in the PIC Office can also provide assistance and advice in planning your program through to graduation. You can visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undersgraduate> for detailed information on common academic concerns.
- **Advice on Philosophy Courses** - You may find answers to your more specific questions about a philosophy degree on the Department of Philosophy's website <http://phil.ucalgary.ca> or contact one of Philosophy's current Undergraduate Advisors (see below)
- **Registration Overload/Prereq Waivers** – If you are seeking to register in a Philosophy course that is full or to get permission to waive the prereqs for a course, email the instructor of the course.

### Protection of Privacy

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. The Department of Philosophy ensures the student's right to privacy by requiring all graded assignments be returned to the student directly from the instructor.

### Student Ombudsperson and Students' Union Representatives

The Student Ombuds Office provides independent, impartial, and confidential support for students who require assistance or advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. For more information, see [www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds](http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds). For the Students' Union Faculty of Arts rep: [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@ucalgary.ca).

### Safewalk

Call 403-220-5333 (24/7/365) for a Safewalk volunteer to accompany you safely to your destination on campus including parking lots, housing, and the LRT station or use a Campus Help Phone.

#### PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT

The Department of Philosophy is located on the 12<sup>th</sup> floor of the Social Sciences Building and on the web at [www.phil.ucalgary.ca](http://www.phil.ucalgary.ca)

#### PHILOSOPHY UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM ADVISORS FOR FALL 2014:

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For assistance with registration issues in Philosophy courses, contact Merlette Schnell ([schnell@ucalgary.ca](mailto:schnell@ucalgary.ca))