PHIL 220
SYMBOLIC LOGIC

Term: Term 1, Winter Session 2017/2018
Meetings: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9:00-9:50am
Venue: West Mall Swing Space, 221

Instructor: Jordan Dodd
Office: E172, Buchanan Block E Building
Office hours: Mondays 10:15-12:15

TA: Kousaku Yui
Office hours: TBD

Email: jordan.dodd@ubc.ca

1. Course description

This course is an introduction to symbolic logic. It examines both formal aspects of logic and philosophical aspects of logic, though the prior is our main focus.

In Unit 1, we will learn the basics of formal logic by learning a system called *propositional logic*. We will learn how to translate expressions into symbolic form and how to test some arguments for validity.

In Unit 2, we will examine a potential problem with propositional logic. The problem concerns how conditional sentences – i.e., 'If, then' sentences – are treated in propositional logic. Unit 2 is our venture into philosophical aspects of logic.

In Unit 3, we will learn a more advanced system of formal logic called *predicate logic*.

2. Texts

The main text is Greg Restall, *Logic* (McGill-Queen's UP). It's available at the UBC Bookstore. All other readings will be linked to via Canvas.

3. Course Evaluation

There will be three tests and a final exam.

The first two tests will be on Unit 1 (Propositional Logic). Test#1 will be entirely multiple-choice questions. Test#2 will be entirely written answers.

Test#3 will be on Unit 2 (Conditionals). It will involve a mixture of multiple choice questions and written answers.

The exam will be on Unit 3 (Predicate Logic).

The course evaluation scheme and test dates are:

Test #1 – 20% - **Wednesday, October 4th**
Test #2 – 20% - **Friday, October 6th**
Test #3 – 20% - **Monday, October 23rd**
Exam – 40% - TBD (during the exam period)

4. Marking concerns or complaints

If you have complaints about your marks that you would like to discuss, you must come to me with them at my office hours. Do not bring such concerns or complaints to Kousaku, the course TA. That being said, when it comes to matters of getting extra help with the course material, you can certainly talk with either myself or Kousaku at our respective office hours.

5. Respect

Please be respectful of your classmates (and me!) at all times during classes. This includes, for example, not talking when others are, and – obviously – not espousing any sort of bigoted views. If I feel that you're being disruptive, I'll kick you out.

6. Make-up tests

Make-up tests will only be available in the case of documented medical reasons for missing the original test.

7. Academic misconduct

There will be serious repercussions if I believe that you cheated during any of the tests. Disciplinary proceedings will commence immediately and as per UBC's prescribed protocols. Make sure that you're familiar with UBC's standards for student conduct and discipline (http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/Vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,0,0) and, in particular, for academic misconduct (http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/Vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,959).

8. Email

I do generally respond to emails, but often not quickly. In other words, you shouldn't think of me as being 'on call' via email at all times. One reason to note this is that you *should not* put off contacting me about pressing matters until the last minute. Odds are that last minute emails won't reach my attention in time. My office hours, not email, should be used for extra help, questions about material, etc.

9. Feedback

The university will ask for your feedback on this course at the end of the semester. That sort of feedback is important. But it doesn't help me change things on the fly – that is, in ways that will help you, as opposed to helping future students.

So give me feedback: after class, via email, at office hours, around campus, whenever. Tell me that I should go faster or slower on certain material, that our discussion of such and such wasn't clear, etc. – or that you think we're going a good speed, our discussion of such and such topic was clear, etc. Either way, feedback is very welcome and encouraged!