**Textbook**

We will use Paul Teller’s introductory logic text, *A Modern Formal Logic Primer* (Vol. I and II), which is available online: http://tellerprimer.ucdavis.edu/pdf

**Resources**

Professor Matt Haber has set up a very helpful webpage containing a wealth of practice problems and past exams (I strongly recommend using this page): http://www.phylosophy.org/phil3200

**Course Description**

This course is concerned with teaching you deductive logic. Logic is considered the science of argument, and mastering deductive logic will greatly assist you in more precisely articulating and evaluating arguments. Since providing argument (or logical reasoning) is the thought to be the most genuine way to convince anyone of anything, believe something at all, or having reason for doing something, learning about the structures of arguments seems to be a very important life-skill. In this course, we will cover both sentence and predicate logic. This will include learning and utilizing basic logical concepts, primitive and derived rules, transcription, natural deduction methods and (possibly) truth-tree methods. Class time will consist of lectures and working through sample problems.

**Grading**

Your grade in this class will be based on (i) turning in your homework assignments on time; (ii) sitting for exams; and (iii) your performance on the exams:

*Homework*

You will be assigned homework for each chapter covered in the Teller text. Homework is due in class on the day the exam is administered for the assigned chapter. No late homework will be accepted. Your homework will be checked very briefly simply to ascertain that you have made a reasonable effort to complete it. You will be expected to check your own answers against the answers in the answer manual (available on the course site, or http://tellerprimer.ucdavis.edu/).
Exams

You will get regular feedback on your progress in the course through six in-class exams, scheduled roughly every two weeks (see below). Each exam will cover the material recently presented in class and assigned in the homework. Though the exams are not, strictly speaking, cumulative, the material is and this will be reflected on the exams. The past exams provided on Professor Haber’s webpage provide a good indication of what future exams will look like.

I recognize that students may learn logic at different paces, or may simply have an ‘off day’, and so I employ an exam system which allows each student to maximize his or her performance in class. For each exam you will receive two distinct grades: one (1) for taking the exam, the other (2) based on your performance on that exam.

(1) You will receive credit simply for sitting and taking each exam. Along with your homework, this will be factored into your overall grade (see below). Please bring your own blue books for the exams. (2) Exams are also graded based on your performance. However, on the first five exams administered it is your choice whether or not I grade your performance. You will have the option of turning your exam into one of two piles, either a “Please Count This Exam” pile, or a “Please Do NOT Count This Exam” pile. If you opt not to have an exam count, you will need to take the make-up exam at the end of the semester (see below).

Everyone gets one DGP. Things come up, and I recognize that extenuating circumstances may force you to miss an exam or feed your homework to your dog. Rather than adjudicate excuses, I’m simply granting everybody one—and only one—free pass (i.e., the DGP). After that your grade is impacted.

Make-Up Exam

There will be only ONE make-up exam, administered during finals week. You must take this make-up exam if you opted to not count any of your first five exams (or if you missed any of the first five exams, for any reason). The content of the make-up exam will be cumulative over the first five exams, and its score will be used for all of the regular exams for which you have a “no score”. E.g., if you opted against counting three exams and scored an 87 on the make-up exam, then you would be credited with an 87 for each of those three exams. You may not take the make-up unless you missed one of the first six tests (unless you want to take it for fun!). So there is some strategy involved in taking exams in this class. You must decide for each exam whether or not to place it in the “Count This Exam” pile, or whether you think you will perform better on the make-up exam. Once you’ve turned in an exam, your decision is final.

Overall Grade

Your final grade will be calculated as follows. Each test is worth 100 points. You will be assigned up to 100 additional points on the basis of homework and sitting for exams.
There are 6 exams and 6 homework assignments; completing 11 or 12 of these earns you 100 points. Completing fewer than 11 earns you fewer points (e.g., completing 8 assignments earns you a $8/11$, or 72.7 points). In short, simply sitting for each exam and turning in all your homework on time earns the same as getting an ‘A+’ on one exam. That’s a pretty good deal! Your lowest grade will be dropped from your cumulative homework grade and the grades from the first five exams (the last exam is not admissible for dropping, otherwise many students with an ‘A’ average may be tempted to cut the last two weeks of class!). The remainder of the grades will be averaged for your final grade.

**Advice**

Students vary enormously in how difficult they find logic. Some, who are very good at other analytic and non-analytic material, find logic extremely hard. Others find it extremely easy. If you find you are having difficulty, get help before its too late! The material gets markedly more difficult as the course progresses, and if you do not understand the initial material, you will find it hard to ‘catch up’ later in the term. If you are having difficulty, please go to my office hours for personal help or get together with a student (or several students) who has some kind of proficiency with the material.

The simplest and best advice I can give you is to **DO LOGIC PROBLEMS EVERY DAY.** Simply spending a mere 15 minutes working on one or two of your homework problems a day will be of immense value to your understanding of logic. Treat this as you would learning a new language. Don’t wait until the day before an exam to try and learn the material.

**Approximate Exam Dates**

Below are the approximate exam dates. These are subject to change based on the pace of class, but they should give you a rough idea of the frequency and dates of tests:

Exam 1 — May 31
Exam 2 — June 14
Exam 3 — June 28
Exam 4 — July 12
Exam 5 — July 26
Exam 6 — August 4, time TBA ( Finals Week)
Make-up Exam August 4, time TBA ( Finals Week)
Administrative and Campus Policies

Email will be an official mode of communication in this course. Please make sure your Umail account is active and working properly. I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus; students will be informed of any changes via email.

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.

Students are responsible for knowing and understanding the University's policy on academic misconduct. More information may be found in the Student Code, available at http://www.regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.html#SECTION%20V