

## Phil 3200 – Deductive Logic

Instructor: Lex Newman

Email: <mailto:Lex.Newman@utah.edu>

URL: <https://sites.google.com/view/lexnewman>

A detailed syllabus of the course will be available at the start of the semester. In the meantime, here is preliminary information about the course.

### Course Content

The course is an introduction to deductive logical reasoning. Students learn the basic skills of logical argumentation – skills underlying the logical reasoning at play in nearly every academic discipline.

Who should take this course?

- Students wishing to refine their logical skills.
- Students seeking more clearly to *articulate* logical lines of thought, in writing and speech.
- Students who plan to go to grad school – Deductive Logic is arguably the single best course offered at the U, in terms of the skills needed for such grad school prep tests, as the GRE, LSAT, MCAT, GMAT, etc.
- Students seeking a Quantitative GenEd course – this course carries the QBQI designation.

### Fall 2020 and Covid-19

For the upcoming Fall 2020 semester, this course is designated as a *hybrid* course – i.e., "hybrid" in the sense that some course elements are *online* (*most* elements, as it happens), and others are in-person, *on-campus*. Because there's no single format that every hybrid course follows, here's a summary of the format I'm planning.

"Live" versions of the weekly lectures will occur at the timeslot designated in the schedule of classes. These weekly lectures will be available in two forms (both will be online): First, students can participate in live lectures, as Zoom sessions – an option enabling students to interrupt the lecture with questions, just as occurs in normal on-campus classroom sessions. Second, students will have the further option (whether or not having participated in the relevant Zoom session) of playing back the Zoom sessions as recorded movie files; this second option includes *all elements* of the original live lecture, plus an ability to hit the "pause" button (as desired) – whether to provide more time think about the issues, or to write detailed notes, or to try solving relevant exercises, etc. On a weekly basis, students will select which of these two options they prefer, as the means of getting the course lectures. Indeed, students are welcome to make use of *both* formats, thereby giving themselves a significant advantage over what a standard on-campus (in-person) course offers.

### Canvas

All course information and materials will be supported through Canvas – the Canvas page should be up and running the week before class begins.

### Homework Lab

Like typical courses that fulfill a Quantitative GenEd requirement, this course is homework intensive. You will be doing your homework with the help of computer software (bundled with the course text). The instructor will run a one hour homework lab every week. This is a great chance to get expert help with the weekly homework assignments. This homework lab is entirely optional – timeslot TBA.

## Grading

Course grades are based on three exams and weekly homework assignments. Provisionally: Exams 1 and 2 will be in-person, on-campus exams – occurring at the time/place designated for our course in the schedule of classes. Because of proposed university policy concerning Covid-19, Exam 3 might need to be a take-home exam. Indeed, in the event that campus gets closed because of Covid-19, the other Exams might also get changed to a take-home format. We'll have to wait and see.

## Course Text

TITLE: *Language Proof and Logic*

- ISBN: 978-1575866321
- 2nd Edition, 2011 [Do not purchase the 1st edition]
- Authors: David Barker-Plummer, Jon Barwise, and John Etchemendy
- Publisher: CSLI

The course textbook comes bundled with computer software that can be run on Windows, Apple, or Linux computers – i.e., you will need regular access to one of these types of computer. (The software does NOT run on Chromebook, Android, or iPhone, or iPad software.) Running the course software is a requirement for taking the course.

***You must buy the textbook NEW.*** The textbook comes with software that you must *register*. The problem is that *only one student can register the software*, per book – period. So, if you buy the textbook used, not only do you run the risk that the software won't be intact, you will be unable to register the software (if the previous owner already did so).

You may purchase the text in either of two formats – use this link to the publisher's website: <https://www.gradgrinder.net/Store/store.html>

**Online Package (\$55.00):** This is an entirely *digital format* – including a superbly-formatted PDF version of the text, all software, and all registration codes needed to run the software and submit the homework sets.

**Physical Package (\$80.00):** This is a regular *hardcopy format* – including everything bundled in the digital format, plus both PDF and hardcopy versions of the textbook.

For most students the online package will work great! Though PDF versions of various other texts are not well-formatted, this one is very professionally done. Unless you have an aversion to reading on computer/tablet screens, I highly recommend the digital package. (I use it. Carrying the big, bulky hardcopy text is cumbersome.)

If you wish to go with the "physical package", you may save a few dollars by purchasing the text from Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/1575866323/>

Note that the text is large and covers a lot of advanced ground. We will not use all of the text, but only the material appropriate to a *beginning* course in formal deductive logic.