Elementary Logic

Instructor

Matt Knachel, knachel@uwm.edu.
Cell Phone: (414) 817 – 2421.
Office: CRT 685 [office hours by appointment]

Teaching Assistant

TBA, meetings by appointment

Texts

V. Klenk, Understanding Symbolic Logic, 3rd, 4th, or 5th Edition. [strongly recommended]
M. Knachel, 211 Lecture Notes

Course Objectives

This is a course in formal deductive logic, the theory of what follows from what. In the course students will develop the following:

(a) A theoretical and historically informed understanding of what makes a logically good argument good.
(b) A practical skill of assessing whether arguments are good.
(c) A practical skill of constructing their own good arguments.

Content

All the material will come from the course textbook and lecture notes. I’ve divided the material into seven Modules. Details for each Module—parts of the text and notes to be covered, lecture videos to view, practice problems to try—can be found in the Module Overview documents. Read these carefully before starting each Module.

Grading

Each Module has two evaluative elements: a “homework” assignment and an “exam”. Collectively, the seven exams account for 80% of your grade; the homework assignments, 20%.

One final requirement for the course: in order to be considered as having completed the class, you must fill out an evaluation survey. It will be made available near the end of the term.
Here are the deadlines (all at 11:59 pm on Tuesday nights):

Homework 1: Sept. 19        Exam 1: Sept. 26
Homework 2: Oct. 3          Exam 2: Oct. 10
Homework 4: Oct. 31         Exam 4: Nov. 7
Homework 5: Nov. 14         Exam 5: Nov. 21
Homework 6: Nov. 28         Exam 6: Dec. 5
Homework 7: Dec. 12         Exam 7: Dec. 19

Resources

It’s not just you and your books out there on your own. Here’s some more stuff to help you learn:

Lecture Videos. I’ve posted lectures from the in-class version of this course here: [http://lubar.mediasite.com/Mediasite/Catalog/pages/catalog.aspx?catalogId=4b786ca2-4ad1-4dc1-88c0-11a6ac8189ff](http://lubar.mediasite.com/Mediasite/Catalog/pages/catalog.aspx?catalogId=4b786ca2-4ad1-4dc1-88c0-11a6ac8189ff). (If you sort these in ascending order by date, they’ll display optimally.) If you so choose (and frankly, you should so choose), you can experience the course just as you would off-line—by virtually attending lectures. Or, you can pick and choose which videos to watch—or which parts of videos to watch—depending on your needs. Each Module Overview document contains a guide to the videos covering that Module’s material.

Teaching Assistant. This person does the grading and knows a lot about logic and is here to answer your questions. See his contact information above.

Question Forums. Whenever someone asks us a question—whether via e-mail, over the phone, or in our offices—we’ll post it (anonymously) to this list, along with the answer, so that everyone can benefit. These forums will have a message-board format. You may of course submit questions directly to the message board, and use it to communicate with one another. The forums are organized by topic (‘General’, ‘Module 1’, etc.), so please take care in posting to the correct place. Note that there are also separate forums for the homeworks and exams, access to which is restricted to those who have already finished them; this is the place to ask questions about specific homework/exam questions.

Tutoring. Panther Academic Success Services (PASS) is the tutoring center on campus. Here's there website: [http://uwm.edu/pass/](http://uwm.edu/pass/). They usually have a tutor assigned to this course. I will make an announcement on the course website when I learn who this person will be and what their schedule will be.

Fellow Students. I encourage you to talk to each other, either in the question forums or out in the world. Sometimes peers’ voices are more helpful than teachers’. Just be sure that any work you submit is your own, not somebody else’s.
Course Mechanics

There’s a lot to keep track of; please read the following carefully.

Where Stuff Is. The book is for sale at Neebo (formerly Panther Books) on Downer. The version for sale there is a special, custom UW-M edition version of the 5th edition, printed in paperback (so it’s cheaper) and featuring only the units of the text that we use. One can also find the regular 3rd, 4th, and 5th editions on-line through various booksellers; if you can find a better deal there, grab it: there’s no disadvantage if you don’t have the custom UW-M edition. Copies of the book will also be on reserve at the library; you can check them out for two hours at a time.

The packet of lecture notes is available in hard-copy at Clark Graphics on Oakland; it costs something like $10 - $15. It’s also available for free as a PDF document under ‘Content’ on the course website. While the hard copy costs money, many students find it very convenient to have as they follow along with lectures.

Module Overviews have their own folder under ‘Content’ on the course website. Question Forums are under ‘Discussions’; homeworks and exams are under ‘Quizzes’; a link to lecture videos is under ‘Links’.

Technology. You’re going to need access to a computer (duh.) with a good internet connection (so you can watch the streaming videos). The preferred browser for D2L is Firefox. Here is a link to a comprehensive D2L Help Guide: http://uwmltc.org/?p=8607.

Since the native D2L interface is a bit clunky, you may want to use Microsoft Office, Apple iWork, or some other program to produce homework and exam answers, then copy-and-paste them into D2L. (If you’re looking for a free program, I recommend OpenOffice, and can help you if you choose to use it). You may also use a digital camera, smart-phone, and/or scanner to capture handwritten answers. See the document “Taking Quizzes” under ‘Content’ for details on these options.

Homework and Exams. The homeworks are meant to provide preparation for the exams. Therefore, they have exactly the same structure: each homework will have the same number of questions and the same types of questions as its corresponding exam. Homeworks can be completed at your leisure; exams have a time four-hour time limit. For more details, see the “Taking Quizzes” document.

Emergency Dropbox Folders. Sometimes you’re taking a quiz, and it’s late at night and close to the deadline, and D2L flakes out for some reason, or something else goes haywire, and you can’t get the quiz submitted on time, or it gets submitted alright, but some of your answers didn’t save for some reason, or the pictures you tried to upload into the answer box didn’t display correctly. In other words: stuff happens. What to do? First, send me an e-mail right away telling me what went down. Then, to show that you’re not trying to pull a fast one, upload documents to the Emergency Folder under ‘Dropbox’ for the quiz you’re taking—documents that show the missing answers and show that you had
them done (roughly) on time. These can be Word (or other word-processing) documents, or they can be pictures of handwritten documents (uploading pictures to the Dropbox is easy; no roundabout procedures like there are for getting pictures into the answer boxes on quizzes).

**Practice Quiz.** As the “Taking Quizzes” document explains, entering logic answers into D2L can be a bit tricky. To get you accustomed to it, there is a Practice Quiz (under the ‘Quizzes’ link), which you can re-take as many times as you want. The Practice Quiz has questions that just involve formatting the kinds of answers you’ll be entering on the real quizzes. I’ll announce as the semester goes along which of these practice questions are relevant to upcoming quizzes. Please make sure you practice before trying to submit the real thing; incorrectly formatted answers on actual quizzes may cost you points.

**Policies**

*Scheduling.* I’m open to allowing students the freedom to follow a schedule other than the one outlined in the calendar. Some people, after all, take courses on-line precisely so that they can have the freedom to work at their own pace. If you are one of these students, please contact me before Sept. 15. I will exempt you from the deadline schedule, provided that you give me a good reason and a rough plan for completing the course. If you do not contact me by Sept. 15, you will be held to the deadline schedule above.

*Lateness.* In general, late assignments will not be accepted without documented, excusing reasons. But sometimes stuff just happens; I’m open-minded. Please notify me before a deadline has passed if circumstances prevent you from submitting something on time; providing timely notice will significantly increase the chances that I will accept the late assignment.

*Communication.* I will communicate with you from time to time via e-mail. I will use the e-mail address on file with UWM. You must check your UWM e-mail, therefore, to see these messages. You will be held responsible for doing so. I will also periodically post announcements on the front page of D2L; please check that space frequently.

*Miscellaneous.* The University has policies governing accommodations for disabilities, religious observances, and military service; there are also policies on academic misconduct, discrimination, grades, appeals, and complaints. You can find all the details at the following URL:


*ESL.* If English is not your first language, that fact may or may not make certain things more difficult for you. If it does, please let me know; I am willing to make any accommodation I can to help you succeed.