

PAR 110: Introduction to Logic

Term: Spring 2021	Instructor: Robert Smithson
Time: MW 5-6:15pm	Email: smithsonr@uncw.edu
Room: BR 100	Office: BR 266
	Office Hours: MW 1-2 and by appointment

Course Description

We know that some arguments are good and some arguments are bad. But just what is it that makes some arguments good? In general, an argument is good only if its conclusion follows logically from its premises—we call these types of arguments valid. Logic is the formal study of validity. In this class, we will use formal techniques that help us determine in a rigorous way whether or not a given argument is valid. To this end, we will study special formal languages and will learn how to translate between these languages and English. We will begin the course by studying sentential logic and will then move on to study a richer system of quantificational logic. In this class, we will see how evaluating arguments in formal languages can help clarify our everyday patterns of reasoning.

Course Goals:

1. To teach students how to evaluate the validity of everyday arguments through the use of mathematical logic.
2. To provide students with an overview of some of the crucial concepts of modern logic: *validity, soundness, truth tables, derivations, models, fallacies*, etc.
3. To improve students' general aptitude for critical reasoning.

Course Texts:

There is an optional background text available for this course: “An Introduction to Symbolic Logic” by Terence Parsons. It is available for free and is uploaded to Canvas. The course will cover the first three chapters.

Logic 2010

Homework assignments are submitted **online** using UCLA's “Logic 2010” program (<http://logiclx.humnet.ucla.edu/>). Students need to download, install, and register for this program ASAP. You will need to know your UNCW ID number and pick a password when you register with the system. **Students who have not registered for the program after the first three days of class will be dropped from the course.**

Course Website

There are two websites for this course. The first is the Logic 2010 student page: <https://logiclx.humnet.ucla.edu/Logic/Student/Course>. Students must register for the Logic 2010 program before they can access the Logic 2010 course website. The Logic

2010 website lists the homework assignments and records student grades for those assignments. It also contains a section (under the “Documents” tab) with many helpful documents explaining how to use the Logic 2010 program. The second course website is the UNCW Canvas site for this course. The Canvas site will be used for posting instructional material.

Course Requirements

Homework assignments: 30%

Midterms: 40%

Final: 30%

Homework

There will typically be two homework assignments per week. Late homework assignments receive no credit unless a valid excuse is communicated (if possible) well in advance of the deadline for the assignment.

Homework assignments can be accessed through the Logic 2010 program (by clicking on the “Assignments” button on the Main Menu) or by signing in to the Logic 2010 student page. Homework assignments must be submitted over the internet to the Logic 2010 database directly from the logic software. Please make sure that your computer is connected to the internet before submitting your assignment. Further instructions for using the program and for submitting homework to the database are available in the attached document and under the “Documents” tab on the Logic 2010 website.

Exams

There will be two midterms and a final. The exams are open-note and open-book. These exams will be taken online using the Logic 2010 software.

Honor Code

All students enrolled at UNCW are subject to the UNCW Student Academic Honor Code, which is intended to help every member of the UNCW community appreciate the high value placed on academic integrity and the means that will be employed to ensure its preservation. Students are expected to perpetuate a campus culture in which each student does his or her own work while relying on appropriate resources for assistance. In such a climate, students enjoy a special trust that they are members of a unique community in which one’s thoughts and words are attributed correctly and with proper ownership, and in which there is little need for systems to sanction those who cheat. As such, all UNCW students shall commit to the principles and spirit of the Honor Code by adhering to the following pledge:

As a student at The University of North Carolina Wilmington, I am committed to honesty and truthfulness in academic inquiry and in the pursuit of knowledge. I pledge to uphold and promote the UNCW Student Academic Honor Code.

More information on the Honor Code is available at the following website:

<http://www.uncw.edu/odos/honorcode/>.

Accessibility Services

It is very important to me that this classroom be an inclusive environment that meets the learning needs of all of its students. If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of academic accommodations in order to fully participate in your classes, please contact the Office of Disability Services (962-7555). Please give me a copy of the letter you receive from Office of Disability Services detailing class accommodations you may need. If you require accommodation for test-taking, please make sure I have the referral letter no fewer than three days before the test.

Title IX Statement

UNCW practices a zero tolerance policy for any kind of violent or harassing behavior. If you are experiencing an emergency of this type contact the police at 911 or UNCW CARE at 962- 2273. Resources for individuals concerned with a violent or harassing situation can be located at <http://uncw.edu/noharm/resources/index.html>.

University Learning Center

The University Learning Center's (ULC) mission is to help students become successful, independent learners. Tutoring at the ULC is NOT remediation: the ULC offers a different type of learning opportunity for those students who want to increase the quality of their education. ULC services are free to all UNCW students and include the following:

- Learning Services (University Learning Center) <http://uncw.edu/ulc/learning/>
- Math Services <http://www.uncw.edu/ulc/math/index.html>
- Supplemental Instruction <http://www.uncw.edu/ulc/si/index.html>
- Writing Services <http://www.uncw.edu/ulc/writing/index.html>

Course Schedule:

All assignments, test dates, etc. are posted on the student Logic 2010 website. The dates for this schedule will be revised repeatedly subject to the progress of discussion in the course.