Introduction to Logic, 70.162 – Fall semester, 2010
Lectures: Tues&Thrs 10:10-11:30, in MCK 003
Instructor: Dr. Derek Brown (727-9765, brownd@brandonu.ca)
Office hours: Tues 1:30-2:30 & Wed 1:30-3:30 or by appointment, Clark Hall 331

This course is an introduction to sentential logic. Logic is what follows from what. Logicians have devised methods for describing patterns of reasoning and for distinguishing good from bad reasoning. *Sentential* logic involves the use of a system of special symbols and rules for determining whether a form of reasoning from sentence(s) to sentence(s) is reliable. This course introduces the concepts of deductive validity and logical form, using sentential logic. We then show how to use truth tables and natural deduction for testing for valid arguments. At the course's end, students will have a better understanding of what reasoning is, of what the meanings of sentences are, of formal representation systems, of what makes some arguments valid, and of how to test arguments for validity. Throughout the course we will emphasize the *practical applicability* of the basic ideas of logic (unfortunately, the applicability of the more complicated ideas must be reserved for more advanced courses). To achieve this, every week we will introduce and discuss the logic and rationality of a famous philosophical argument, and (almost) every week students will be required to locate and submit an example of logical reasoning from current and well-known news publications. There will also be an in class exam roughly every three weeks.

Text: Bergmann, M., Moor, J. & Nelson, J. (2004). *The Logic Book, 4ᵗʰ ed.* McGraw Hill: NY, NY.

Grade evaluation:

Exam 1: Tuesday, September 28, 2010	worth 20% of final grade
Exam 2: Tuesday, October 19, 2010	worth 20% of final grade
Exam 3: Tuesday, November 9, 2010	worth 20% of final grade
Exam 4: Tuesday, December 7, 2010	worth 20% of final grade
10 samples of 'news reasoning'* x 2 marks/sample =	worth 20% of final grade

* These are accepted every Tuesday at the beginning of class, and I will accept no more than one of sample from each student each Tuesday. There are 14 Tuesdays to choose from throughout the term, so each student can skip 4 of them and still submit the required 10 samples. You may not hand in the same sample twice, and groups of (2 or more) students consistently handing in the same samples will be penalized in accordance with BU policies on Academic Dishonesty (see below). A few sample submissions are attached.

☐ Class participation can help your mark but cannot hurt it – any such grade modifications are at the sole discretion of the instructor. The course content and exams are inherently cumulative. As a result each exam typically requires mastery of the material presented up to that point in the course. Sample exam questions will be provided in class.

☐ Individuals with disabilities, either permanent or temporary, which might affect their ability to perform in this class, are encouraged to inform the instructor at the start of the semester. Adaptations may be made as required to provide for equitable participation.

☐ In the event that you miss an exam you *must* present documentation establishing your whereabouts during the exam, and the reason for your absence must be deemed acceptable by the instructor. Conflicts with scheduled university events (e.g. athletic) in which you will participate must be brought to the instructor's attention during the first week of the term. *If a student misses an exam and does not provide adequate documentation in a timely manner s/he will receive a grade of 0 on that exam.*

☐ ***Please turn off all cell phones during lectures.***

Grade assignments will be *roughly* in accordance with the following:

95-100	A+	67-71	C+
89-95	A	63-67	C
84-89	A-	59-63	C-
79-84	B+	50-59	D
75-79	B	0-50	F
71-75	B-		

NOTE: Decimal grades from 0.0-0.49 will be rounded down, and from 0.5-0.99 will be rounded up.

Rough schedule of topics:
Weeks 1-2: Chapter 1
Weeks 3-5: Chapter 2
Weeks 6-9: Chapter 3
Weeks 10-13: Chapter 5

Students are specifically referred to the policy on 'Academic Dishonesty and Misconduct' under the 'Registration Regulations' section of the General Calendar (in subsection 'Registration' and sub-subsection 'Coursework and Examinations'). This is available in print or online. Violations of this policy, including all forms of plagiarism, will not be tolerated.