Philosophy 142 Syllabus

August 27, 2008

1 Instructor Information

Professor	GSI
Branden Fitelson 132 Moses Hall 242-0666 office hours: 1:30–2:30 MWF email: branden@fitelson.org www: http://fitelson.org/	Justin Bledin [See the course home page for Justin's contact information, office hours, etc.]

☞ *The best way to reach Branden is via email (I check it all the time).*

2 Textbook & Supplemental Materials

We will be using Graham Priest's 2008 Cambridge University Press text *An Introduction to Non-Classical Logic*. The fourth printing of this book is available in both new and used vintages from our campus bookstores (or, of course, amazon.com).

☞ *Everyone should buy a copy of our textbook, as soon as possible.*

Occasionally, I will supplement the text with my own handouts. Electronic versions of all handouts will be posted on the *Philosophy 142 Handouts Page* at

http://fitelson.org/142/handouts.html

All handouts will be posted in Adobe Acrobat PDF format, and will require Adobe's Reader software (version 3.01 or later) to be viewed, printed, etc. All campus computers should have Reader.

The course website also has a links page, which contains links to course materials from two similar courses that have recently been taught at UBC and UT–Austin. The links page also contains other interesting materials, including links to several websites concerning *mathematical induction* — an important (meta-logical) technique we'll be learning this semester.

3 What, When, Where, Why?

Philosophy 142 consists of three 50-minute lectures [3-4 pm MWF @ 110 Wheeler], and one 50-minute discussion section per week. We will arrange section times, places, and rosters during the first week of class. Keep an eye on our *Sections Page* (and on your email!) for details about discussion section times and places, at:

http://fitelson.org/142/sections.html

Attendance will not figure explicitly into your final grade. The objectives of this course are: (a) to gain some understanding of the philosophical motivation for non-classical logics (specifically, non-classical *sentential* logics, with an emphasis on logics of *conditional* statements), (b) to become proficient in some non-classical logical methods (both semantic and syntactic), and (c) to learn some meta-logic (and meta-logical techniques) along the way. If you are able to solve all the exercises in the text, then you should do pretty well on the homeworks and the exams, because:

☞ *The vast majority of homework & exam exercises will be taken directly from the text.*

4 Grades, Assignments, Exams, and all that…

4.1 The Basic Structure of the Course

We will have (*i*) a quiz at the end of the second week (on some technical background and review), (*ii*) weekly homework assignments, (*iii*) a mid-term examination, and (*iv*) a final examination. All Assignments and Exams will be posted at:

The quiz will be worth 10% of your final grade, the HW assignments (average) will be worth 40% of your final grade, and the exams will be worth 25% of your final grade each. We will be grading "on a curve" which means that a $\frac{65}{100}$ might end-up being a "B," depending on how the class does (statistically). After each grading episode, I will try to give you a rough idea of where "A"s, "B"s, etc. would fall on our numerical scale for each assignment/exam (as well as cumulatively).

4.2   Details about Homeworks

On Fridays, I will assign some exercises (usually from the text) as homework (these will be posted prior to class on the assignments page above). These exercises will be due the following Friday. It is quite important that you keep up with the exercises and the readings, as we go along. And, except for rare exceptions (and sometimes with penalties):

☞   *No late homeworks will be accepted.*

4.3   Group Work and Individual Work

We *urge* people to work in groups on both homework assignments and take-home exams. In fact, we will award bonus points to people who work in groups on homeworks and take-home exams. See the separate "Working in Groups" handout:

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http://fitelson.org/142/groups.html
or
http://fitelson.org/142/groups.pdf

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for all of the rules, regulations, and details concerning group work. Make sure to read that document carefully.

5   Tentative Course Schedule

We will be following the text pretty closely. But, the course will evolve dynamically as the semester unfolds. Keep a close eye on the course Home Page for announcements about the course schedule (and other developments pertinent to the course). Aside from making announcements in lectures, the Home Page will be the mechanism by which I will keep you informed as to where we are in the course (and where we're going next).

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http://fitelson.org/142/index.html

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The plan is to cover as much of Part I (*i.e.*, chapters 0–11a) of Priest's text as we can. We may not cover all sections of these 13 chapters. As we go along, I'll let you know which sections we'll be skipping (if any). All details about the evolution of the course will be announced both in class and on the Home Page — as we go along. So, stay tuned. . .

6   `bspace` Site

I have created a `bspace` site for the course. It will be used only for keeping track of grades. All other information will be posted on the official course website, above. Using your Calnet ID, you should already be able to login to our course `bspace` account from the following URL. You will only be able to view your own grades (and no other information).

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https://bspace.berkeley.edu/

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7   Class Email List

I will also maintain a *class email list*, which I will use from time to time to disseminate information to the class as a whole. Make sure that the email address you have recorded in the Berkeley database is the one you actually use. See:

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https://calnet.berkeley.edu/directory/update/

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8   Opportunities for Additional Work/Extra-Credit

If you should get bored with the course, or if you'd just like some additional things to work on, I'm always happy to point you to additional problems or projects relating to the course material. If you're extra-curious, and/or if you're interested in some extra-credit opportunities, then see me or Justin outside of class.