Course Syllabus

Instructor: Tony Roy
Phone: 537-5870
E-mail: troy@csusb.edu
Web: http://philosophy.csusb.edu/~troy/
Lab: UH 047, see http://philosophy.csusb.edu/
Office: UH 401.43
Office hrs: MWF 12:00 - 1:10 and by appointment — or try me anytime I am in

Brief Description:

Alternative logics have multiple motivations. Just as predicate logic extends sentential logic to include all and some, so one may desire further extensions to, say, necessity and possibility. Further, there may seem to be fundamental difficulties for the classical approach. So, perhaps you were initially shocked (!) to discover that in classical logic anything follows from a contradiction. In this course, we consider logics alternative to the classical approach, with attention to issues of both sorts. Systems to be considered combine, in different ways, semantics based on possible worlds, and semantics allowing truth values beyond T and F (e.g., neither and even both); these include modal logics, conditional logics, and relevant logics. In one way or another, each has important philosophical applications, and each is itself a subject of philosophical debate. This course contributes to the Minor in Philosophical Logic.

Course Expectations:

The primary treatment of the logics is sentential, so the only prerequisite is Phil 200 (or comparable background). In a class like this, nothing is more important than regular class attendance, class participation, and faithful, on-time completion of assignments. We need also to respect one another by observing basic rules of course etiquette: Apart from special arrangements, arrive on time, do not leave early, or come and go during class. If you are in the room, be engaged in class activities (not surfing the web, playing with your phone, reading for other classes, or the like). Apart from special arrangement, phones should remain off or completely silenced (not on vibrate) during class; do not answer a ring; if your phone does ring, the “penalty” is to bring cookies for all at the next class meeting.

Text:

The main text is Graham Priest, An Introduction to Non-Classical Logic: From If to Is, 2nd ed. available in the bookstore. We will also make use of some materials available on the web, including Sentential Logic (SL), “More Natural Derivations for Priest” (MNDP), and “Making Sense of Relevant Semantics” (MSRS).
Grading:

Grading is based on homework (20%), two midterm exams (20% each), and a final (40%). There are some opportunities to obtain extra credit.

(a) Homework will be regularly assigned in class and due at the beginning of the following period. Assignments will be marked on a 2-point scale according to the following criteria: 2 homework is complete; 1 at least half complete; 0 less than half complete. There is no makeup for this component of the grade apart from compelling, continuing reasons. Thus homework samples regular effort and attendance. However, the homework score is calculated by dividing points earned by three less than points possible; the effect is to “forgive” 1.5 missing assignments or, if all assignments are worked, to treat the points as extra credit. You will find the assignment schedules linked under our course on the courses section of the webpage http://philosophy.csusb.edu/~troy/courses.htm

(b) The midterms are take-home exams. Apart from prior arrangement, late midterm exams cannot be accepted. The final is a comprehensive in-class examination. It will be given during the regular exam period (W 12/5, 8:00). You may expect every question on the final to have appeared on previous homework or exams.

(c) Extra credit assignments will sometimes be assigned along with homework. Assignments are designed to go with corresponding homework, but will count as on time up to the following exam. Clearly indicate assignment numbers! These are worth 5% of the total grade (making regular homework far more important than these problems).

Grading notes:

(a) You may choose any method for getting homework done (short of xeroxing or printing out answers, or the work of another student). In this class, there is nothing unethical if you work together with other students, or even if you copy off the board when problems are worked in class (but not all problems will be worked in class).

(b) The above homework policy DOES NOT apply to the take-home exams. These are open-book, but are to be worked on your own – without the assistance of other students, lab assistants, the instructor, etc. Academic honesty is always essential. Plagiarism will result in an automatic F for the assignment, and up to an F for the course with University discipline. Because the issue is so important, be sure you know what plagiarism is! If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to talk things over with me. See also, “What is Plagiarism” from my website http://philosophy.csusb.edu/~troy/courses.htm along with p. 54 of the CSUSB Bulletin http://catalog.csusb.edu/documents/2012-2014.pdf#page=54

(d) Numbers convert to grades as follows: a score ≥ 90% is an ‘A’, a score ≥ 80% is a ‘B’, etc. You are guaranteed to receive at least the grade earned according to this scheme. However, in computing final grades the instructor reserves the right to lower this scale (e.g., > 89%, ‘A’ etc.); this does not happen ordinarily.
Order of Instruction (tentative):

I. Classical logic / Necessary background
   Priest, chapter 1
   SL chapter 7, MNDP section 1

II. Normal Modal Logics
    Priest, chapters 2, 3
    MNDP section 2

   midterm exam

III. Conditional Logics
     Priest, chapter 5
     Roy, MNDP section 4

IV. Many-Valued Logics
    Priest, chapters, 7, 8
    MNDP section 6

   midterm exam

V. Relevant Logics
    Priest, chapter 10
    MNDP sections 8, 9, MSRS

   final exam

In addition, we will “wave” at non-normal modal logics, intuitionistic logics, fuzzy logic and many-valued and quantified modal logic as we go by. Depending on time and interest, we may be able to develop some of these in more detail, and we may have to delete the section on conditional logics. Some of these might constitute good topics for another course or independent study!

Details:

There are no adds after the census date. See detailed policies for adds and drops beginning on p. 48 of the CSUSB Bulletin [http://catalog.csusb.edu/documents/2012-2014.pdf#page=48].

If you are in need of accommodation for a disability in order to participate in this class, please contact Services to Students with Disabilities at UH 183 (909) 537-5238. Individuals with disabilities should prepare for an emergency ahead of time by instructing a classmate and the instructor. If you require assistance in the event of an emergency, you are advised to establish a buddy system with a buddy and alternate buddy in the class.

Everyone should receive messages from their CSUSB e-mail. If this is not your regular address, you can set it to forward messages to your regular address.