

# Philosophy 57 Greensheet (Syllabus)

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- Instructor Information
  - [Branden Fitelson](#)
  - Email: [branden@fitelson.org](mailto:branden@fitelson.org) (email is the best way to reach me)
  - Office: [FOB](#) 232 (office phone #: 924-4522)
  - Office Hours:
    - Tuesday: 4:30-6:30 pm
    - Thursday: 4:30-6:30 pm and 7:00-9:00 pm
    - Or by appointment

- Course Home Page (updated regularly)

<http://philosophy.wisc.edu/fitelson/57/>

- Textbook & Readings
  - Textbook
    - [A Concise Introduction to Logic - 8th Edition](#) (by [Patrick Hurley @ USD](#)).
    - Click [here](#) to do an online price comparison for the text at [addall.com](#).
    - The text is available on campus at [Spartan Bookstore](#).

I highly recommend using the text's [CD-ROM](#). The CD-ROM contains:

- Clear and informative multimedia lectures for every section of the text
- Excellent logic software ([Logic Coach](#)) for MACs ([OS 9](#) and [OS X](#)) and [PCs](#).

- There is also a very nice [student resources web page](#) for the textbook, which contains additional software and practice exercises.

◦ Readings

- We will be covering (significant parts of) **chapters 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6** of the text.
- Depending on the pace of the lectures, we may not get to all sections of these chapters.
- I will keep you informed in class about which sections you should study at which times, and which sections will be covered on quizzes and exams, etc.
- You will only be responsible (*i.e.*, on quizzes and exams) for those sections of the text that I am able to discuss in lecture.

• Grading Information

- "The Formula": final grade = (average [quiz](#) grade + [midterm](#) exam grade + [final exam](#) grade)/3 (plus [limited extra-credit](#) points).
  - All quizzes and exams will be graded "on a curve". That is, the letter-grade cutoffs will depend on how other people in the section do on the quiz/exam.
  - Approximate letter-grade cutoffs will be announced after each quiz/exam. More accurate grade ranges will be announced near the end of the semester.
- "Homework"
  - You are encouraged to work as many exercises in the textbook (and on the [CD-ROM](#) and [student resources web page](#)!) as possible.
  - **Exercises worked outside of quizzes and exams will not be (officially) graded.**
  - **But**, I will be quite happy to discuss any exercises from the book/CD-ROM either in class or in office hours.
  - **The exercises in the text will be very similar to those you will see on quizzes/exams (indeed, many quiz/exam questions will be taken *straight from the text*).**
- Quizzes
  - There will be a total of **7 short in-class quizzes** (roughly every other week). The quizzes will be given on the following dates (all **Tuesdays, at the beginning of class**):
    - **2/4, 2/18, 3/4, 4/1, 4/15, 4/29, 5/13**
  - The quizzes will cover only material that has been discussed in lecture up to that point (*i.e.*, up to the end of the Thursday lecture before the Tuesday quiz).
  - The quizzes will be in a simple, short-answer/multiple choice format.
  - The quizzes will only last between 15-20 minutes.

Your 2 lowest quiz grades will be dropped (*i.e.*, your 5 best quiz scores will be averaged).

- **There will be no make-up quizzes.**
- **Quiz questions will be very similar to the (short) exercises in our textbook (and they will be much like those discussed and practiced in lecture).**
- Exams
  - **Mid-term exam: in class on:**
    - **Tuesday, March 18** (the midterm will take the entire class period of 75 minutes)
    - Make-up midterms will only be given under very special circumstances.
  - **Final exam: in regular classroom ([SH 238](#) or [BBC 323](#)), on:**
    - [Section 3](#): **Friday, May 16, 9:45am-12:00pm**
    - [Section 5](#): **Monday, May 19, 2:45-5:00pm**
    - [Make-up finals](#) (which will only be given under very special circumstances) must be taken on **Thursday, May 22** (at some agreed upon time)
  - **Exam questions will be very similar to the exercises in our textbook (and they will be much like those discussed and practiced in lecture).**
- Extra-Credit (limited)
  - A limited number of **extra-credit points** will be awarded to students who are able to use [logic software](#) (either [Logic Coach](#) or another software package) to solve some of the more difficult exercises from chapters 4-7 of the text.
  - The extra-credit will be limited to **"0.3 grade points (+/-)"** for the course (*e.g.*, enough get you from a B- to a B or from an A to an A+, but *not* enough to, *e.g.*, get you from a B+ to an A-).
  - When we get to chapter 4, I will say more about this opportunity to earn limited extra-credit points. Stay tuned...
- Academic Honesty
  - I assume that everyone is familiar with the SJSU [Policy on Academic Dishonesty](#). Enough said.
- Special Learning Needs
  - Anyone with special learning needs or disabilities should contact both [myself](#) and the [DRC](#) (immediately) to make special arrangements for quizzes, exams, etc. (if such special arrangements will be required).