# Philosophy 211: Elementary Logic—Fall 2006

Instructor: Joel Velasco (jdvelasc@wisc.edu)
Class Website: http://philosophy.wisc.edu/velasco/211
Office: 5166 Helen C. White
Phone: 263-0776 (no voice mail)
Office Hours: Tuesday at 6:30 pm and Thursday at 5:30 pm
    Also, I am available by appointment (at a mutually agreeable time.) These office hours
    are for you, so please make use of them.
Class: 7:30 – 8:45 pm Tuesday, 6:30 – 8:45 Thursday
Room: 5181 HC White

## Course Goals

In this class, you will learn to apply formal techniques for determining the validity of arguments. Three major components of this skill that are covered in this course:

- Translating English sentences to symbolic formulas.
- Constructing proofs of valid arguments.
- Using truth tables or countermodels to demonstrate failures of validity.

This class will prepare you for a more advanced logic course such as Philosophy 511 or Math 571. Formal logic provides the foundation for several branches of knowledge such as philosophy, mathematics, computer science, linguistics, and science generally.

## Text:

Logic Primer (2nd Edition) by Allen and Hand (MIT Press 2000)
This book is available at the University Bookstore, and you must get it as soon as possible as homework assignments will begin immediately. Please note that this book is not designed to be read on its own, but to be used as an aid with lectures providing essential information for success in the class.

## Course Requirements:

Your grade will consist of three components:

1. Homework. There will be approximately 9 homework assignments. Each will be handed out on Tuesday and due the following Tuesday. Late homework will be penalized 33% for each class day it is turned in late. Homeworks will be returned on Thursday and as long as you made a good faith effort the first time around, you may resubmit homework for full credit by Tuesday. Homework will constitute 20% of your overall grade.
2. Two mid-term exams: There will be two exams during the semester and each will have an in-class component and a take-home component. One will cover sentential logic (chapters 1 and 2 of the text) and the other will cover predicate logic (chapters 3 and 4 of the text). Each exam will count for 25% of your course grade.
3. Final Exam A cumulative final exam at the regularly scheduled time (7:25 pm Tuesday, Dec 19th) This exam will count as 30% of your final grade.