

<b>INSTRUCTOR</b>	<b>OFFICE</b>	<b>E-MAIL</b>	<b>OFFICE HOURS</b>
Joel Velasco	Eng/Phil 265G	joel.velasco@ttu.edu	T,R 2:00-3:00
Hamed Shirmohammadi	Eng/Phil 262	hamedshirmohammadi@gmail.com	F 11:00-12:00
Brian Kested	Eng/Phil 262	brian.kested@ttu.edu	F 12:00-1:00
Joshua Tignor	Eng/Phil 262	joshua.tignor@ttu.edu	T 1:00-2:00
Chad O'Neal	Eng/Phil 262	chad.oneal@ttu.edu	TH 1:00-2:00

Lecture MWF 10:00-10:50 MCOM 353  
 Section 1 (Hamed) 12-12:50 W (Phil 152)  
 Section 2 (Brian) 12-12:50 W (Phil 150)  
 Section 3 (Josh) 1-1:50 W (Phil 152)  
 Section 4 (Chad) 2-2:50 W (Phil 152)

<b>MAIN COURSE OBJECTIVES</b>
1. To help you focus on <i>arguments</i> rather than <i>conclusions</i> , on reasons rather than opinions. 2. To teach you standards for <i>evaluating</i> arguments, for finding out whether they are good or bad. 3. To help you apply the standards to the evaluation of real-life arguments proposed by others. 4. To help you apply the standards to the construction of your own real-life arguments. 5. To fight superficiality by emphasizing quality rather than quantity. 6. To help you develop valuable skills by emphasizing rigorous thinking, clarity, and precision.

**Text:** Language, Proof and Logic (2nd edition), text and software package; by Jon Barwise and John Etchemendy. It is slightly cheaper to purchase just a pdf of the textbook along with the software package (<http://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/distributed/L/bo12734345.html>)

WARNING: You cannot simply use the book or a pdf of a friend or even your own used copy of the textbook. You must have a new, unique CD package.  
 In order to complete your homework, you will need to register with The Grade Grinder, using the Registration ID# that comes with the software CD in the book-package. So a used copy of the book-package will not do if the previous owner has already registered: different people need to use different registration numbers.

**Course Materials:** All course materials such as this syllabus, the assignments, extra handouts, sample exams, and lecture slides will be posted on the course website here:  
<http://joelvelasco.net/teaching/2310/>

There is a blackboard site for the course, but nothing will be there except a link to the above website. However, the blackboard site will allow you to keep track of the points you have earned so far in the class.

## GRADING

- There will be (perhaps) 9 or 10 homework assignments throughout the course. Sometimes they will be written assignments to be turned into class, sometimes problems to be completed and turned in online to the grade grinder, and often both. The sum of all of the homeworks is worth 30% of your final grade.
- There will be two in-class exams worth 20% of your grade each.
- There will be a final exam worth 30% of your grade.
- On occasion, there may be additional problems on the homeworks available as extra credit.
- Final grades will follow a standard distribution so that 89% is a B+, 90% an A-, and 93% an A for example. However, there may be a curve in the sense that getting 85% will guarantee you AT LEAST a B, however, it may be a B+ or even higher depending on the final distribution. However, there will be no curve *downward*. So if the lowest grade in the class is 93, then everyone will earn an A.

***Attendance at lectures is mandatory. Your likelihood of failing the class increases substantially with every lecture you miss. If you think you will miss more than three lectures this semester, this is probably not the class for you.***

## Other Matters:

***Academic Integrity:*** Cheating and plagiarism are, of course, prohibited in this class just as they are in all university classes. They will be taken particularly seriously in this class, and any cases that may arise will be treated in a manner consistent with University policy. These two violations of academic integrity are each defined in the section of the Texas Tech online official publications titled “Academic Integrity.” Plagiarism is there described as follows:

“Plagiarism’ includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation of, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, other expression and media, and presenting that material as one’s own academic work being offered for credit.” <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/studentconduct/academicinteg.php>

You can find excellent explanations of what specifically constitutes plagiarism as opposed to proper citation, and also tutorials on how to avoid plagiarism at the following websites: <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~writing/sources/>  
<http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml>

**Note:** If, at any time, you are at all unclear about what counts as plagiarism, or about whether you are properly citing sources in any of your written work, please just come by and ask me about it. You do not want to be confused or careless about this serious matter.

***Classroom Civility:*** It should go without saying that disruptive behavior is not considered acceptable in the classroom. In addition, the study of philosophy, like any other substantial subject, requires a certain level of concentration. And everyone’s

attention and concentration is facilitated by an absence of unnecessary distractions within classroom. In concrete terms, this means you should turn off phone ringers before class starts; keep them in your bag or pocket. If you break this rule, you will be asked to leave class for the day – texts and facebook can go on hold for an hour! I'm serious about this – don't text or poke around on your phone during class, it is disrespectful and distracting. If there is something incredibly pressing, get up and go to the hall. You do not need a laptop in class, though you may use them to view your textbook if you prefer an electronic version. Though note that this leads to temptation not to pay attention as well as you should in class and it is easy to distract yourself and others. You absolutely need computer access **outside** of class in order to do many assignments, but all you really need in class is paper, something to write with, your textbook, and your brain.

*Students with Disabilities:* Any student who, because of a disability, may require special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make any necessary arrangements. Students should present appropriate verification from Student Disability Services during the instructor's office hours. Please note instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from Student Disability Services has been provided. For additional information, you may contact the Student Disability Services office in 335 West Hall or 806-742-2405.