Lecture 1: Introduction
Philosophy 10

Administrative Information
Who I am               Course Materials
Sections                 Mailing Lists
Grades               Other Issues

Content Introduction
What is logic?     Why is it important?
What is ‘Sentential Logic’?
What are ‘Informal Fallacies’?

Administrative Information
Who I am?
Rick Grush
Professor of Philosophy
UC San Diego

Who else is involved?
TAs, office hours, change each quarter and are announced on Course Webpage and email lists

Administrative Information
Course Materials
Basic Sentential Logic and Informal Fallacies
- Text written by me explicitly for this course
- Homework
- Practice Exams
- Preliminary Syllabus

Administrative Information
Course Materials
Online Syllabus/Course Page

Administrative Information
Course Materials
Lecture Videos/Podcasts

Administrative Information
Discussion Sections
- Attendance not required, but is recommended
- Can attend any section, not just the one you’re enrolled in
- The TA of the section you are officially enrolled in is the one who has your grade sheet, so deal with them for anything point-related
Administrative Information
Mailing lists
- One for each section
- Used by TAs and me to communicate about due dates, schedule changes, when grades are available, etc.
- It is a course requirement that you subscribe to the email list for the section you are enrolled in

Grades
1000 points in the course
- Two Midterm exams, 200 points each
- One Final exam, 500 points
- Eight Problem Sets (homework) each either 12 or 13 points, for 100 points total

Grades
Worst-case scenario: straight 10%
900-1000 A-, A or A+
800-899 B-, B or B+

But, depending on class average and distribution, the cut-offs may move downward slightly

Other Issues
Exam length
- Time is a factor on the midterms, less so on the final
Academic Dishonesty
Other issues (link from Course Webpage)

Content Introduction
What is logic?
Study of reasoning, the process of going from given facts, information or assumptions to ‘new’ information
Put it another way: determining what follows, and what doesn’t follow, from what

Examples:
Pizza: Either the pizza in my hand is a cheese pizza or it is a pepperoni pizza. It is not a pepperoni pizza. Therefore, it must be a cheese pizza.
Content Introduction

What is logic?

Examples:

Cross-examination: If you were at the zoo at the time of the murder, and the zoo is in San Diego, then you could not have made it back to LA before the Office Depot closed.

Content Introduction

What is logic?

Why is logic important?

- Reasoning governs everything you do
- Much human reasoning is bad
- Many groups (political campaigns, advertising agencies) know how to manipulate bad reasoning for their own ends.

Content Introduction

What is ‘sentential logic’?

In many cases, what makes reasoning good or bad is formal features of the reasoning.

Pizza: Either the pizza in my hand is a cheese pizza or it is a pepperoni pizza. It is not a pepperoni pizza. Therefore, it must be a cheese pizza.

Either X or Y. Not Y. Therefore X.

Content Introduction

What are ‘informal fallacies’?

Some common patterns of reasoning that are often bad are bad for reasons other than the formal features of the argument.

Every time Jerome Bettis carries more than 30 times, the Steelers win. So all Cowher has to do to keep the Steelers winning is to give the ball to Bettis at least 30 times a game.

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