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

Administrative Information

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

Administrative Information

Grades

Curve?
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

Administrative Information

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

Content Introduction

What is logic?

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

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 teh 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.

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'?