

PHL 485W.01: Readings in Philosophy

Spring 2008

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**CATALOGUE COURSE DESCRIPTION: PHL 485 Readings in Philosophy.** This course is designed especially for advanced students who are capable of independent study. The particular program of study for the course must be discussed in advance with the prospective instructor. Admission to the course requires permission of the instructor. Credit 3.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** The specific title of the course is PHL 485: Readings in Philosophy: First Order Logic and Argument Diagrams in the Law of Evidence. The objectives for the course are: (a) to gain competence with two complementary systems of representation, First Order Logic and Wigmorean Argument Diagrams, and (b) to see how these systems of representation aid in the analysis and evaluation of legal argumentation.

**TEXTS AND OTHER REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

- (1) *Language Proof & Logic* by Jon Barwise and John Etchemendy
- (2) *Analysis of Evidence, 2nd edition* by Terence Anderson, David Schum, and William Twining

**GRADING:** The grade for the course will be based on successful completion of a number of weekly assignments. From the *Language Proof and Logic* text there will be problem sets that will be submitted to a computer grading system at Stanford. The assignments from *Analysis of Evidence* will be based on the problem sets at the end of each chapter. Where feasible a computer-assisted argument diagramming software package (Rationale from austhink.com) will be employed.

**STANDARD POLICIES:** Each of these standard policies is stated in full on the Blackboard website for this course under Course Documents. I have extracted from the full statement a key element as a reminder of the policy in its entirety, but the student must download the posting on Blackboard to have the full policy statement. Here are the six standard policy matters: (1) NOTICE TO PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center. There will be no retroactive accommodations. (2) ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. (3) CLASSROOM RULES OF CONDUCT: Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. (4) VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM: It is at the instructor's discretion whether or not he/she will be allowed to remain. (5) ABSENCE ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS: A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present in advance to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). (6) COURSE EVALUATIONS: In accordance with University policy, students will have an opportunity near the end of the semester on a set day and time to complete a course evaluation.

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE for PHL 485W.01 CID#1936 Spring 2008**

The participants will meet weekly with the time and place TBA. The student participants will start by essentially reviewing the content of PHL 362: Contemporary Logic by doing weekly assignments from *Language Proof & Logic*. This review will be accompanied by a look at materials related to the LSAT, and it will encompass the first 1/3-1/2 of the semester. The second part of the semester will be devoted to the *Analysis of Evidence* with weekly assignments drawn from the problems presented at the end of each of the book's twelve chapters.