Instructor: Douglas Kutach  
Brown University  
Department of Philosophy  
Box 1918  
Providence, RI 02912

Course Hours: 1:00 PM - 1:50 PM Monday, Wednesday and Friday in Wilson Hall 102.

Office Hours: Wednesday 2:15 PM to 4:15 PM in Gerard House 300. If you cannot come then, or if the wait is long, please call or talk to me about some other meeting time.

Telephone: (401) 863-3242

Textbooks: None required. I do strongly recommend *Meaning and Argument* by Ernest Lepore. It uses the same system I will use in class and has much more extensive discussion of the same issues. You should definitely get this if you do not feel confident about your mathematical skills.

Website: [http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Philosophy/Douglas_Kutach/logic.html](http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Philosophy/Douglas_Kutach/logic.html)

E-mail: dk12@brown.edu

**Course Description**

This course is designed to improve your reasoning skills and critical faculties. It is an aid for your own intellectual empowerment, and it positions you to learn just about any advanced logic. We will focus on deductive reasoning. First, we will consider informal arguments, and the difficulties found in evaluating these arguments will lead us into developing a special formal language that isolates ambiguities. We will explore this formal language and how it can help us prove and disprove arguments. We will build on this formal language, increasing its power to the point where we can discuss substantive philosophical problems, the foundations of arithmetic, and infinity.

**Tasks and Evaluations**

Competence in logic is a skill. Like other skills, it is learned by practice. It is extremely important that you work on problems.

Acquisition of skill in logic is cumulative. The material at the end of the course is much more difficult than the material at the beginning. You need to be in class and do an adequate number of practice problems if you want to do well. Attendance is not formally required, but it is generally foolish to skip classes or forgo practice problems.

Your grade for the course will be determined by these factors:
1. There are 4 exams in class, each worth 14% of your final grade.
2. There are three quizzes worth 6% each.
3. There is a single homework problem worth 6%.
4. There is a comprehensive final exam. It is worth 20% of your final grade. If your final exam grade is higher than one of your four other exams, the lowest exam grade (or a single exam among your very lowest, in the case of a tie for lowest) will be averaged with the final exam grade.

The grading scale for the exams and homework will be determined after the exam has been written so that the difficulty of the questions can be taken into account, but before any exams have been graded. If there are any mistakes on the exam, the grading scale for that exam may be adjusted afterwards.