

PHIL 230: Introduction to Formal Logic

California State University, Northridge — Fall 2026

Fully Online · Synchronous (Zoom)

Class Meetings: Tuesdays & Thursdays

Meeting Times:

- Section 1: 2:30–3:45 p.m.
- Section 2: 4:00–5:15 p.m.

Both sections share this syllabus.

1 · Instructor & Contact

Instructor: Daniel Kwon

Office: ST 526 (virtual visits by appointment)

Email: dkwon3420@gmail.com · dkwon@csun.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 12:00–12:50 p.m. PT, via Zoom

Zoom Link (classes & office hours): <https://csun.zoom.us/j/3131069567>

2 · Course Description

Formal logic is the study of which statements and arguments are guaranteed true (or false) purely in virtue of their form. Empirical content is set aside; only logical structure matters.

In this course, we study propositional logic and predicate logic using E. J. Lemmon's natural-deduction system, a precise formal system that allows us to derive conclusions from premises according to explicit rules.

A central theme of the course is the distinction between formal derivation and semantic evaluation. In the early part of the semester, we focus exclusively on derivations as rule-governed symbolic procedures, without appeal to truth or meaning. Only later do we connect these derivations to truth-tables, validity, soundness, and completeness.

The ultimate aim of the course is not only procedural fluency, but theoretical understanding: by the end of the semester, students will be able to prove that Lemmon's system is sound and complete, thereby justifying its reliability as a method for identifying logical truth and validity.

3 · Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Master Lemmon's derivation rules for propositional and predicate logic.
- Translate English statements and arguments into logical symbolism.
- Construct formal derivations and counter-models.
- Prove soundness and completeness results for logical systems.
- Understand logic as a formal, rule-governed method independent of empirical content.

4 · Required Text

E. J. Lemmon, Beginning Logic (Hackett).

5 · Assessment & Grading (100 points total)

Exams (Alternating Tuesdays)

There are 7 short exams, administered synchronously on Zoom on alternating Tuesdays during the regular class meeting time. Each exam focuses on recently covered material.

- 7 Exams @ 10 points each = 70 points
- Comprehensive Final Exam = 30 points

Course Total: 100 points

Letter Grade Scale

A = 93+	A- = 88-92	B = 83-87	B- = 78-82
C+ = 75-77	C = 70-74	C- = 60-69	D = 50-59
F < 50			

6 · Exam Schedule (Fall 2026)

All exams are administered live on Zoom during the regular class meeting time.

Exam	Date	Coverage	Points
Exam 1	Tue, Sep 15	Derivations I (Propositional Logic)	10
Exam 2	Tue, Sep 29	Derivations II (Propositional Logic)	10
Exam 3	Tue, Oct 13	Truth Tables	10

Exam 4	Tue, Oct 27	Soundness (Propositional Logic)	10
Exam 5	Tue, Nov 10	Completeness (Propositional Logic)	10
Exam 6	Tue, Nov 24	Derivations (Predicate Logic)	10
Exam 7	Tue, Dec 8	Soundness (Predicate Logic)	10
Final Exam	Week of Dec 15	Comprehensive	30

The final exam will be held during the official CSUN finals window (December 12–18, 2026) at the regularly scheduled class time. Please confirm the exact final-exam date and time against the registrar's official final exam schedule grid once it is posted, as it depends on your section's specific meeting time.

7 · Attendance & Preparation

- Live Zoom attendance every Tuesday and Thursday is expected.
- Lecture explanations, worked derivations, and clarifications are delivered during live sessions.
- Students are expected to attempt assigned Lemmon exercises before class.
- Logic is a skill learned by doing; daily practice is strongly encouraged.

8 · Exam Policies

8.1 Submission Format (Non-Negotiable)

- Exams must be submitted as a single typed PDF via Canvas.
- Compose answers in Word, Google Docs, LaTeX, or equivalent → export one PDF.
- Hand-written work, photos, scans, or multiple files receive an automatic zero.

8.2 Timing & Late Penalties

Section	Opens	Due (class end)	Grace	Penalty
2:30 class	2:30 p.m.	3:45 p.m.	0–5 min	–10% per 5-minute block (up to 50 min)
4:00 class	4:00 p.m.	5:15 p.m.	same	same

- Later than 50 minutes after the due time → 0.
- Canvas locks submissions automatically.
- No make-up exams under any circumstances.

9 · Academic Calendar Notes (Fall 2026)

- Classes begin: Tuesday, August 25, 2026 (first T/Th meeting; university-wide instruction begins Mon, Aug 24)
- Labor Day holiday: Monday, September 7 (no instruction)
- Veterans Day holiday: Wednesday, November 11 (falls on a non-meeting day for this section)
- Thanksgiving Recess: November 26–29 (no instruction — this cancels the Thursday, Nov 26 class meeting)
- Last day of instruction: Friday, December 11
- Final exams: December 12–18

10 · University Policies (CSUN)

This course follows CSUN policies regarding:

- Academic integrity
- Classroom safety
- Disability accommodations (DRES)
- Dropping and adding
- Inclusivity

Full policy statements are posted on Canvas.

11 · Keys to Success

- Attend every Zoom session.
- Practice derivations daily.
- Ask questions early—logic difficulties compound quickly if left unresolved.

This syllabus may be revised with notice.

Welcome to PHIL 230.

Course Summary

Date	Details	Due
Tue, Sep 15, 2026	Assignment: Exam 1	due by class end
Tue, Sep 29, 2026	Assignment: Exam 2	due by class end
Tue, Oct 13, 2026	Assignment: Exam 3	due by class end
Tue, Oct 27, 2026	Assignment: Exam 4	due by class end
Tue, Nov 10, 2026	Assignment: Exam 5	due by class end

Tue, Nov 24, 2026	Assignment: Exam 6	due by class end
Tue, Dec 8, 2026	Assignment: Exam 7	due by class end
Week of Dec 15, 2026	Assignment: Final Exam	per final exam schedule