

3-21-2005

# Philosophy Logic Substitution Proposal

The College at Brockport, College Senate

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**SUNY BROCKPORT**

College Senate  
State University of New York  
College at Brockport  
350 New Campus Drive  
Brockport, NY 14420-2925  
(585) 395-2586 (Fax) 395-2246

**Resolution # 08  
2004-2005  
COLLEGE SENATE**

TO: Dr. John B. Clark, Interim College President  
FROM: The Faculty Senate Meeting on: **March 21, 2005**  
RE: I. Formal Resolution (*Act of Determination*)  
II. Recommendation (*Urging the Fitness of*)  
⇒ III. Other, For Your Information (*Notice, Request, Report, etc.*)

COLLEGE SENATE  
SUNY College at Brockport  
APR 21 2005  
350 New Campus Drive  
Brockport, NY 14420-2925

SUBJ: **Philosophy Logic Substitution Proposal**

Signed: Dawn M. Jones Date: 4/4/05  
*(Dr. Dawn M. Jones, 2004-2005 College Senate President)*

**Please fill out the bottom portion and return document to the College Senate Office.**

TO: The College Senate  
FROM: Dr. John B. Clark, Interim College President  
RE: I. Decision and Action Taken on Formal Resolution (circle):  
a. Accepted. Effective Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_  
b. Deferred for discussion with the Faculty Senate on \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_  
c. Unacceptable for the reasons contained in the attached explanation  
⇒ II, III. Response to Recommendation or Other/FYI  
a. Received and acknowledged 4/14/05  
b. Comment:  
\_\_\_\_\_

DISTRIBUTED BY PRESIDENT'S OFFICE TO: Executive Council  
DISTRIBUTED BY PROVOST'S OFFICE TO: Dean's Council  
DISTRIBUTED ALSO TO: Originator, Academic Advisement, Registrar (as appropriate)

Signed: John B. Clark Date: 4/14/05  
*(Dr. John B. Clark, Interim College President, SUNY College at Brockport)*

# RESOLUTION PROPOSAL COVER PAGE

NUMBER TO BE ASSIGNED BY SENATE OFFICE

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: FEBRUARY 23 - Proposals received after the deadline may not be reviewed until next semester.

Submit all proposals to the College Senate President electronically or on a disk with a hard copy.  
 Please provide cover page information requested.  
[facprez@brockport.edu](mailto:facprez@brockport.edu), [fsenate@brockport.edu](mailto:fsenate@brockport.edu)  
 College Senate Office, 426 Allen Building

## 1. PROPOSAL TITLE:

Please be somewhat descriptive, for example, *Graduate Probation/Dismissal Proposal* rather than *Graduate Proposal*.

substitution of PHL205: Modern Logic for PHL202: Logic in the Philosophy Major.

## 2. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL:

PHL202 now serves two different purposes that do not fit together well; we propose to address these two purposes in two different courses.

## 3. SUBMISSION & REVISION DATES: PLEASE DATE ALL UPDATED DOCUMENTS and resubmit to the Senate Office electronically prior to Senate review and vote at [fsenate@brockport.edu](mailto:fsenate@brockport.edu).

First Submission	Updated on	Updated on	Updated on
2/23/05			

## 4. SUBMITTED BY: (contact person)

Name	Department	Phone	Email
Georges Dicker	Philosophy	x2544	gdicker@brockport.edu

## 5. COMMITTEES TO COPY: (Senate office use only)

Standing Committee	Forwarded To	Date
<input type="checkbox"/> Enrollment Planning & Policies	Committee Chair	2/23/05
<input type="checkbox"/> Faculty & Professional Staff Policies	Executive Committee	3/7/05
<input type="checkbox"/> General Education & Curriculum Policies	Senate Floor	3/21/05
<input type="checkbox"/> Graduate Curriculum & Policies	College President	4/4/05
<input type="checkbox"/> Student Policies	Other	
<input type="checkbox"/> Undergraduate Curriculum & Policies		

\*(ROUTING NUMBER WILL BE A CHRONOLOGICAL NUMBER SEQUENCE FOLLOWED BY COMMITTEE INITIALS)

**PROPOSAL TO SUBSTITUTE PHL 205: MODERN LOGIC FOR PHL 202: LOGIC IN  
THE PHILOSOPHY MAJOR**

***I. COMPARISON OF EXISTING AND REVISED MAJOR***

<b>existing major program</b>	<b>credits</b>	
<b><i>PHL 101: Introduction to Philosophy</i></b>		<b>3</b>
PHL 102: Introduction to Ethics	3	
PHL 202: Logic	3	<i>core courses</i>
PHL 304: Ancient Philosophy	3	
PHL 305: History of Modern Philosophy	3	
PHL 396: Seminar on Philosophical Problems		
or	3	
PHL: 491: Seminar on Individual Philosophers		
plus		
four 3-credit philosophy courses, at least one of them at the upper-division	12	<i>electives</i>
	<hr style="width: 10%; margin: 0 auto;"/> 30	

**revised major program**

<b><i>PHL 101: Introduction to Philosophy</i></b>		<b>3</b>
PHL 102: Introduction to Ethics	3	
PHL 205: Modern Logic	3	<i>core courses</i>
PHL 304: Ancient Philosophy	3	
PHL 305: History of Modern Philosophy	3	
PHL 396: Seminar on Philosophical Problems		
or	3	
PHL: 491: Seminar on Individual Philosophers		
plus		
four 3-credit philosophy courses, at least one of them at the upper-division	12	<i>electives</i>
	<hr style="width: 10%; margin: 0 auto;"/> 30	

***II. RATIONALE FOR CHANGE***

Our present introductory logic course, PHL 202, attempt to fulfill two different purposes that, as we have come to see, do not fit together very well. On the one hand, it is the only logic course that our majors are *required* to take (though we advise those of our majors who want to go on to graduate work in philosophy to follow it up with PHL 322: Intermediate Logic). On the other hand, it is a breadth component Humanities course addressed to general students. In order to fulfill the first purpose, the course needs to focus on modern deductive logic, in which formal methods for constructing and evaluating arguments are the centerpiece. The students learn to put arguments that are stated in a natural language (English) into the symbolic language of modern

propositional logic, after which techniques for proving or disproving their validity are learned and practiced. These techniques are quasi-mathematical, and the more basic ones must be mastered before the more powerful ones can be learned. They represent essential skills for pursuing philosophy as it is practiced today, especially in the Anglo-American philosophical community. In order to fulfill the second purpose, however, formal techniques for evaluating deductive arguments need not be pursued nearly as far, because students who are not philosophy majors are likely to find them rather remote from the reasoning skills that can serve them well in life, work, and civic engagement, and are not likely to find much use for formal techniques after they graduate. Instead, more emphasis can be placed on such topics as different uses of language, definition, detecting and avoiding logical fallacies, supplying missing premises, analogy and probable inference, causal reasoning, scientific reasoning and explanation, and alternative conceptions of probability.

Our proposal, then, is to separate these two different purposes by offering two different courses. The new PHL 205: Modern Logic course will be designed for majors, and we also expect it to enroll some computer science, natural science and math students. We do not plan to submit it as a breadth component course, so we will offer only one section of it each year. The PHL 202: Logic course will continue to be designed with the general student in mind, and we will continue to offer it in the breadth component.

### ***III. DESCRIPTION OF NEW COURSE PHL205: MODERN LOGIC***

**Modern Logic.** This course uses the mechanism of an artificial language to provide a systematic study of deductive reasoning. Students will learn to translate English sentences into an artificial language, and construct formal proofs of validity for deductive arguments. Covers classical sentential logic. Other topics that might be introduced include: predicate logic, identity, and modal logic.

#### ***I. Objectives***

- a. to introduce the concept of logical form, and the related concept of formal validity, and to explain the relationship between formal validity and sound deductive reasoning
- b. to teach the method of symbolizing English language sentences and arguments in an artificial language as a means of identifying the logical form of these sentences and arguments
- c. to teach students modern methods of determining whether a deductive inference is formally valid or invalid

#### ***II. Outline***

##### **A. Logical Form and Formal Validity**

1. Statements, arguments, and patterns of thought
2. Logical and non-logical terms
3. Definition of formal validity

4. Formal validity and sound deductive reasoning

B. Symbolization: the Syntax of the Formal Language

1. Sentential connectives
2. Negation, conjunction, disjunction
3. Conditional, biconditional
4. Symbolizing arguments

C. Determining Validity in Sentential Logic

1. Simple truth tables
2. Truth evaluations
3. Complex truth tables
4. Truth assignment test

D. Proofs and Refutations in Sentential Logic

1. Examples
2. Simple Proofs
3. Simple Refutations
4. Harder Proofs
5. Harder Refutations
6. Indirect Proofs

**Student Performance will be assessed by written examinations.**