The Department of Philosophy at Queen’s University invites applications from suitably qualified candidates interested in teaching a course in Introduction to Logic (PHIL 260). This is a winter term appointment for the period January 1 to April 30, 2020, with classes in session from January 6 to April 3, 2020.

The University invites applications from all qualified individuals. Queen’s is committed to employment equity and diversity in the workplace and welcomes applications from women, visible minorities, Aboriginal peoples, persons with disabilities, and persons of any sexual orientation and gender identity. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority.

The University will provide support in its recruitment processes to applicants with disabilities, including accommodation that takes into account an applicant’s accessibility needs. If you require accommodation during this process, please contact: (Department of Philosophy, Susanne Cliff-Jungling, s.cliff-jungling@queensu.ca, 613-533-6000 x77027)

The Teaching Fellows at Queen's University are governed by the Collective Agreement between the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) and the University, which is posted at http://queensu.ca/facultyrelations/teaching-assistants-and-fellows/collective-agreement

Applications should include a cover letter, a complete and current curriculum vitae, transcript, and any other relevant materials the candidate wishes to submit for consideration such as a letter of intent, teaching dossier, etc. The successful candidate will be expected to teach the course using the current syllabus and description (see below). Please arrange to have applications and supporting documentation sent as one pdf file directly to:

Dr. Christine Sypnowich, Head
Department of Philosophy
Queen’s University
Kingston Ontario Canada K7L 3N6
philhead@queensu.ca

Applications will be received until October 15, 2019. Review of applications will commence shortly thereafter, and the final appointment is subject to budgetary approval. Additional information about the Department of Philosophy can be found at http://www.queensu.ca/philosophy/

Course Description:
PHIL 260/3.0 Introduction to Logic

When we uncover the formal structure of our thoughts and utterances, we gain a deeper understanding of what we think and say. When we study the formal structures themselves, we learn something of the processes underlying cognitive activity in general. Classical logic is a formalization of deductive reasoning, an ideal that we rarely achieve in our everyday discourse. By familiarizing ourselves with formal patterns and recognizing when and how form and content mutually influence one another, we train ourselves to become better thinkers. Ultimately, this is what you will learn in this class — how to think well. More specifically, you will learn how to translate natural language arguments into the more precise languages of first and second-order logic and how to assess the deductive structure of those arguments using both syntactic and semantic models. Whenever relevant, we will talk about the differences between natural and formal languages, focusing on features such as expressiveness and exactness, and consider the consequences for language and thought. Finally, we will explore some of the philosophical issues that arise when we attempt to formalize good reasoning. There will be some
technical work in this course, but nothing that even those who fear, probably incorrectly, that they are ‘bad at math’ couldn’t handle.

Texts/Readings:

Assessment:
1 midterm examination (in-class) — 20%
1 final examination (scheduled) — 40%
7 quizzes — 40% (6% each)

LEARNING HOURS  120 (36L;84P)
PREREQUISITE   Level 2 or above or completed 6.0 units in PHIL.
EXCLUSION    PHIL 361/3.0.EQUIVALENCY    PHIL 361/3.0

Posted: (August 26, 2019)