

Extra Credit Opportunities

Due:

Latest day to turn in both assignments is **Monday, December 1** (Monday after Thanksgiving Break) at class. You may turn in earlier.

Value:

Each is worth 2.5% of total grade. This is the same as one quiz. You may do one, both, or neither.

1. Special Problem Summary

Three chapters/articles have been posted to Blackboard. One is a technical account of the challenges posed by the conditional, another discusses contradiction and its relation to Buddhist logic, and the third deals with the applicability of formal logic to our everyday lives. These range in difficulty, from most challenging to least, respectively.

Your task is to read one of these chapters/articles and write a summary of it. You may choose to summarize the entire article more broadly or merely a section with more detail. In either case, you must include some of your own thought within or in addition to the summary: What questions do you have as a result of reading this, or what questions did it clear up? What does the article talk about that you still find confusing, and why? Do you disagree with anything in the article, and why? Does one system of doing logic discussed in the article make more sense to you than another? What are your opinions about the applicability of logic to real-life arguments? Do you think logic should account for the possibility of something being both true and false? Etc.

The summary should be about **one single-spaced page**.

2. Formalize an Argument

You will either select your own argument from a written text (cleared by me in advance) or choose from a couple arguments I have selected (coming in November). You will analyze the argument closely, clearly indicating which statements you are taking as sentence letters and the relationships you see between them in the article. You will select the appropriate kind of logic (categorical, propositional, quantificational) for expressing these relations, and translate the passage into a formal argument.

The passages I provide won't be too long, and your formal argument plus rationale behind your decisions I expect will also be about a page – similar to the length/effort required for the first extra credit option.