PHIL 3333
LOGIC
Tues/Thurs 2:00-3:25 PM
St. Mary’s

Fall 2015
St. Thomas Philosophy Department

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Logic has long been part of the core of a liberal arts education. In this course students will learn to become better thinkers and communicators, mastering skills in informal and propositional logic, fallacy identification, and the philosophy of language. Topics in the history of philosophy and other disciplines will provide illustrations of the role of logic in the liberal arts and an opportunity for students to use their logical skills in diverse contexts.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Name: Dr. Shannon Holzer
E-mail: holzers@stthom.edu
Office Phone: 310-625-6313
Office Location: by appointment

LEARNING RESOURCES

Course Texts:

*Logic,* by Quick Study Academic, ISBN 978-1-572226-29-6
*The Abolition of Man,* by C.S. Lewis, ISBN 978-0060652944

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course will introduce students to logical terms, methods, and reasoning tools used to assess arguments. Philosophy of language, fallacies, induction and the nature of rationality will all be discussed.

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Identify different types of concepts, terms, and words.
2. Identify fallacies.
3. Evaluate definitions.
4. Identify and evaluate contradictions.
5. Detect, translate and evaluate arguments using syllogisms.
6. Identify and evaluate inductive reasoning.
7. Place logic and the “scientific method” into the context of their lives and faith

RELATION TO THE MISSION OF THE UNIVERSITY

We are the University of St. Thomas, the Catholic university in the heart of Houston. We are committed to the Catholic intellectual tradition and the dialogue between faith and reason. By pursuing excellence in teaching, scholarship and service, we embody and instill in our students the core values of our founders, the Basilian Fathers: goodness, discipline and knowledge.

We foster engagement in a diverse, collaborative community. As a comprehensive university grounded in the liberal arts, we educate students to think critically, communicate effectively, succeed professionally and lead ethically.
This course supports the mission of the university by teaching habits that help you to love God with your entire mind. In addition, the skills learned in Logic will assist you in every one of your other courses. You will become a better business person, nurse, writer, and thinker with this course.

RELATION TO COLLEGE GOALS AND PURPOSES

This course is designed to support the mission of the St. Mary’s:

St. Mary’s Seminary is a theologate which exists for the personal, spiritual, academic and pastoral preparation of men for the Roman Catholic priesthood. St. Mary’s is committed to enabling men to grow in holiness and develop into pastoral leaders who desire to serve the Church as priests and who satisfactorily demonstrate their competence and willingness for effective ministry.

The seminary promotes the full, integral, and personal growth of each student and emphasizes the development of skills in collaborative ministry.

St. Mary’s strives to lead seminarians to an appreciation of the global mission of the Church, so that they are ready to “meet the needs of the whole Church, being prepared in spirit to preach the Gospel everywhere” (Decree on the Training of Priests, n. 20). Hence, St. Mary’s Seminary is committed to preparing priests who will be pastorally effective serving with and among all of God’s people.

The primary focus is the preparation of candidates for the diocesan priesthood who intend to serve in the south and southwestern part of the United States which is multi-ethnic and multi-cultural.

Recognizing the pervasive influence of the Hispanic reality in the Southwest, St. Mary’s Seminary provides the seminarians an environment which fosters and cultivates language and pastoral skills particularly useful for service among Hispanics from a variety of nations and cultures. It also prepares men to serve the large Black communities of the South and the growing Southeast Asian Community.

Logic will be particularly helpful in taking classes in the School of Christian Thought. You will learn to read great works better and the readings are designed to interact with the other courses in the core curriculum. In addition, you will learn how to engage arguments in a congenial and fair manner.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADE SCALE

This course teaches five core competencies or skills: (1) identifying different kinds of concepts, terms, and words, and evaluating definitions; (2) identifying different kinds of material fallacies; (3) analyzing the constituents of propositions and recognizing their structure by translating them into logical form; (4) understanding, constructing, and evaluating the validity of inferences and of syllogistic arguments; and (5) using truth tables, truth trees, and elementary derivations to evaluate and construct formal arguments in propositional logic.

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Taking the final exam for the course is required for all students.

LATE WORK & TEST POLICY

Late work will be penalized. You should not miss any exams. If you are sick, you need to notify the professor in advance. The professor reserves the right to administer a different exam, deduct points for taking the exam late, and/or schedule the makeup for a later date. *Missing an exam without giving prior notice will result in a zero for that test, with no makeup. You may only retake a skill test that you’ve taken at the first scheduled class time.*
TOPICAL OUTLINE / COURSE SCHEDULE

SECTION 1 UNDERSTANDING

Kreeft, Introduction, Sections 1, 4, 5; Chapter I. Exercises on p.34.
Kreeft, Chapter I & II. Exercises on pp.49-54, 61-2, 64-6.
Kreeft, Chapter II & III. Exercises on pp.72-3, 82-3.

Kreeft Chapter IV. Exercises on pp.130-31 (II.A only on page 131, that is, don’t go on to page 132).

SECTION 2 JUDGMENT and REASONING

Kreeft Chapter V, Sections 1-3.
Kreeft Chapter VI. Exercises provided by instructor.
Kreeft Chapters IX & X, Syllogisms. Exercises on p. 205, p.219 and pp.234-36 (A-C)
Kreeft, Chapter XI, Sections 1-4. Checking Syllogisms for Validity.
Exercises on pp.253-57 plus Venn Diagram exercises provided by instructor.
Chapter XI concluded.

SECTION 3 PROPOSITIONAL LOGIC, INDUCTION and PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

Propositional logic (logical connectives, truth tables/truth trees, rules of inference, simple derivations). Exercises provided by instructor.
Propositional logic (logical connectives, truth tables/truth trees, rules of inference, simple derivations). Exercises provided by instructor.
Test on Skill 5.

* Final Exam: TBA

The content of this outline and the indicated schedule are subject to change at the discretion of the professor.

TEACHING STRATEGIES

The teaching strategies may include lecture, discussion, problem sets, pop quizzes, assigned readings, handouts, tests, papers, or other means as deemed appropriate.

STUDENT APPRAISAL

Student evaluation of the instructor will follow university policy.

ATTENDANCE

Please see the official Attendance Policy in the HBU Classroom Policy on Blackboard. Students missing more than 25% of the class will be given a failing grade.
ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS
Students needing learning accommodations should inform the professor immediately and consult the Academic Accommodations section of the HBU Classroom Policy posted on Blackboard.

Any student with a disability requiring accommodations in this course is encouraged to contact Counseling and Disability Services in Crooker Center. Their offices can be reached at (713) 525-6953 or 2169.

PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR DEVELOPING SYLLABUS

Dr. Shannon Holzer

____________________________________  __________________
Instructor’s Signature                 Date

Student Signature: I have read and understand the syllabus for this class. I understand that the content of this syllabus and the topical outline are subject to change at the discretion of the professor. I have read and understand the St. Thomas Classroom Policy posted on Black Board. I promise to uphold the Code of Academic Integrity at St. Thomas University and will not tolerate its violation by others.