

TRIVIUM

ART OF LOGIC II: ADVANCED ARGUMENTATION

COURSE SYLLABUS

[GENERAL]



DESCRIPTION OF THE TRIVIUM

The Trivium—consisting in the three arts of grammar, logic, and rhetoric—always exists as a whole: any attempt to divorce logic from grammar and rhetoric, or any of these three from each other, such that one studies one and not the others, results in an inadequate command of each and therefore an inadequate command of language. Thus, although this study *focuses* upon logic, it does not do so to the exclusion of its sisters in the Trivium. Propositions are studied in the context of sentences, and syllogisms and complex arguments in the contexts of paragraphs and essays. As a whole, the eyes of our Trivium program concerns the objects of **symbolic signification**—a point which we will discuss regularly.



Our Trivium program consists in **eight courses**, to be taken in sequence:

1. Art of Grammar I: Foundations
2. Art of Logic I: Basics of Argumentation
3. Art of Rhetoric I: Discovery of Arguments
4. Art of Grammar II: Composition
5. Art of Logic II: Advanced Argumentation
6. Art of Rhetoric II: Styles of Persuasion
7. Grammar & Rhetoric: Literature and Philosophy
8. Philosophy of Logic¹

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The primary channel of study along which we will progress in this two-part course concerns logic as a reflective art whereby we consider our own powers and operations of intellectual understanding, especially as these unfold through language (with a particular eye to the English language, but also sometimes with regard to Latin). The primary *object*, however, of which this reflective art seeks understanding, is the **illative relation**: that connection which draws forward our own inferential action. We will therefore, in pursuit of understanding this object, contemplate the three acts of the intellect, the nature and properties of terms, of propositions, of syllogisms, and rigorously practice the ability of instilling these reflective considerations into our common use of language and efforts at linguistic communication.

¹ Philosophy of Logic doubles as a Philosophy Seminar.

The second course, Advanced Argumentation turns its attention to more complex relations of propositions (including modality), enthymemes and epicheiremas, extended argumentation of both categorical and hypothetical kinds, and the different modes of inference. Here, we focus primarily on deep improvements to the dexterity of our logical analysis and prepare ourselves for examining and producing more complicated arguments ourselves. By producing habits of clear thinking, we enable ourselves to dissect falsehoods and articulate complex truths to produce logical conviction in ourselves and in others.

METHOD

The Art of Logic II: Advanced Argumentation course is 8 weeks long, with one brief recorded lecture and one discussion session each week. The **Art of Grammar I: Foundations**, **Art of Logic I: Basics of Argumentation** and **Art of Rhetoric I: Discovery of Arguments** are **all** prerequisites to this course. Each lecture and discussion session are structured around a reading from *Logic as a Liberal Art: An Introduction to Rhetoric & Reasoning* by R.E. Houser. Participants are expected to have read the assigned reading and listened to the lecture prior to the session, so that they may engage in a semi-structured discussion directed and moderated by the instructor and ask insightful questions about language and thinking. In addition, the nature of logic demands direct practical habituation: as such, there are **problem sets included in the primary reading which are to be completed each week**. Student answers are to be uploaded to a designated folder before the end of each week. Difficult and exemplar problems will frequently be discussed in our live sessions, at prompting of instructor and student alike.

Additionally, the weekly threads will allow students the opportunity to communicate with the instructor and with one another about concepts and problems asynchronously throughout the week. This practice is strongly encouraged to keep student minds' engaged with logical thinking between class sessions.

READING

There is one primary text for the Art of Logic II: Advanced Argumentation course: *Logic as a Liberal Art: An Introduction to Rhetoric & Reasoning*, by R.E. Houser (Catholic University of America Press, 2020). Secondary readings from John Buridan and John Poincaré will be provided by the instructor. Secondary recommended texts include but are not limited to: I.M. Bochenski's *History of Formal Logic*; Sr. Miriam Joseph's *The Trivium: The Liberal Arts of Logic, Grammar, and Rhetoric*; Scott Sullivan's *Introduction to Traditional Logic*; Jacques Maritain's *Formal Logic*. The instructor may provide supplementary readings from semiotics, as well. **Readings are subject to change.**

LECTURE

Each week there will also be a 15 to 45-minute audio or video lecture, posted to Teams at the beginning of the week. This lecture will be based upon the assigned reading, but will also stray into related topics, or may use the reading as a launching point for addressing some related issue (perhaps one more general, or perhaps one more specific). Though they will avoid straying into topics too abstruse, these lectures will serve to engage students in reflection upon the acts of the intellect and the symbolic signifiers thereof, and will, as such, be of crucial importance to engaging fully with the study of logic.

DISCUSSION

Though one can gain much knowledge studying logic independently and asynchronously, often there are questions best answered in live conversation. Moreover, there are depths and nuances of reasoning which may be better discerned through the immediate presence of an instructor. The intellectual act is, after all, vital: witnessing and participating in its execution aids us all. Accordingly, two discussion sessions will be held every week at times TBD.

Each discussion session will begin with a brief synopsis of the week’s material and a focusing on whichever aspects of that material seem most pressing. Beyond the direction provided by the instructor, participants are encouraged to bring their own concerns explicitly into view and to engage with the instructor and one another in civil debate and collective inquiry.

ASSIGNMENTS

Each Lesson in Houser’s *Logic as a Liberal Art* contains a problem set which students may complete at their own pace and on which they may receive feedback from the instructor, if so desired. Many other logic textbooks offer their own problem sets as well and these may be supplied for supplemental work, both to help introduce some difficult concepts and to provide additional opportunity for practice. There will be a **Midterm Exam** due on **at the break** and a **Final Exam** due on **at the end of course**.

SESSION SCHEDULE

Week I	<p>Review of Principles</p> <p>Lecture: Dexterity of Reasoning</p> <p>Required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Logic I: Basics of Argumentation Final Examination. • Extended discussion of Supposition
Week II	<p>Manipulations of Propositions</p> <p>Lecture: Underlying Relations of Propositions</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Houser, <i>Logic as a Liberal Art</i> – Lesson 19. Conversion. • Houser, <i>LLA</i> – Lesson 20. Obversion. • Buridan, <i>Treatise on Consequences</i>, Book I.
Week III	<p>Modal Propositions</p> <p>Lecture: Modality Logically and Ontologically Considered</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buridan, <i>Treatise on Consequences</i>, Book II. • Poinset, <i>Outlines of Formal Logic</i>, Book II, c.20-22.
Week IV	<p>Enthymemes and Epicheiremas</p> <p>Lecture: Illative Relations and Inferential Leaps</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Houser, <i>LLA</i> – Lesson 28. Enthymemes and Epicheiremas. <p style="text-align: center;">MID-TERM EXAMINATION DUE TBD</p>
	<p>BREAK</p>

Week V	<p>Extended Categorical Arguments</p> <p>Lecture: Logic and Science</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Houser, <i>LLA</i> – Lesson 29. Extended Categorical Arguments. • Houser, <i>LLA</i> – Lesson 12. Different Kinds of Definitions.
Week VI	<p>Advanced Hypothetical Arguments</p> <p>Lecture: Language and Thinking</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Houser, <i>LLA</i> – Lesson 30. Hypothetical Arguments (Review). • Houser, <i>LLA</i> – Lesson 31. Advanced Hypothetical Arguments.
Week VII	<p>Induction, Deduction, and Abduction</p> <p>Lecture: Contingency and Necessity in Thinking</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Houser, <i>LLA</i> – Lesson 32. Induction. • Poinset, <i>Outlines of Formal Logic</i>, Book III, c.2-3.
Week VIII	<p>Review & Exam</p> <p>Lecture: Revisiting Contingency and Necessity</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Notes. • The final examination will be posted at the end of the final class. Students will have one week to complete the examination, which must be uploaded to Teams before 11:59pm ET at the end of that week. <p style="text-align: center;">FINAL EXAMINATION DUE TBD</p>