

**ST. PETER'S SEMINARY / KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**  
at *The University of Western Ontario*

**Philosophy 2222E**  
**ARISTOTELIAN LOGIC**

**Tuesday/Thursday (9:30-11:00 a.m.)**  
**St. Peter's Seminary, Room 110**

**Dr. Michael T. Fox**  
**519-432-1824, ext. 256**  
[mtfox@uwo.ca](mailto:mtfox@uwo.ca)

Office Hours are at St. Peter's Seminary, Room 107B. I have set aside Monday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. and Thursday from 11 a.m. to noon as my office hours, but feel free to drop by my office at any time to discuss your insights and questions in philosophy.

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

A study of some of the central concepts in Aristotle's logic. Special emphasis is placed on deductive and inductive forms of reasoning, as well as argumentation materially considered, namely, demonstration, dialectics, rhetorical argumentation and poetic argumentation. In addition, a study of sophistical reasoning is made. *Antirequisite(s): Philosophy 2022 or the former Philosophy 205E.*

**COURSE PREREQUISITES AND ANTEREQUISITES**

"Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites." **Senate Policy**

**GOALS OF COURSE**

This course will assist students to grow in the following knowledge, skills and attitudes.

**Knowledge**

**What Should Students Know:**

- To understand the nature and role of the art of logic.
- To understand the three acts of the intellect: definition, proposition, and argumentation.
- To understand the various kinds of fallacious reasoning.

## Skills

### What Students Do:

- To read carefully the assigned readings.
- To follow carefully the classroom lectures.
- To show in class discussions and written work a firm grasp of the assigned readings and classroom lectures.
- To develop a position on the assigned readings and classroom lectures.
- To present in class discussions and written work sound arguments for their position.
- To show in classroom discussions and written work a firm grasp of the art of logic.
- To be able to write in clear, concise and grammatically correct English.

## Attitudes

### What Students Should Value:

- To participate in discussions in a way that makes clear their positions, enables them to listen openly, and maintains respect for others while disagreeing with their ideas.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### First Semester

- Two Exams
  - (1) Thursday, October 9
  - (2) Thursday, November 13
- One Essay (2,500 words)
  - due Tuesday, October 21

### Second Semester

- Two Exams
  - (1) Thursday, January 22
  - (2) Thursday, March 5
- One Essay (2,500 words)
  - due Tuesday, March 10

Final Exam: Held on a date in April to be set by the University

## ALLOTMENT OF MARKS

Four Exams	35%
Two Essays	35%
Final Exam	30%

## **REQUIRED TEXT**

Kreeft, Peter. Socratic Logic. Indiana: St. Augustine's Press. 2010

This book may be purchased at the U.W.O. Book Store. You may be able to purchase copies at the Used Book Store at Western.

Selected readings in philosophy may be assigned for certain course sections in addition to the readings from Kreeft.

## **COURSE OUTLINE** (2014-2015)

### **INTRODUCTION: WHAT IS LOGIC?**

Read: Kreeft, pp. 1-34 (selections will be made)

### **I. THE FIRST ACT OF THE MIND: UNDERSTANDING**

Read: Kreeft, pp. 35-46

Topics for discussion: understanding; concepts, terms, and words; the problem of universals; extension and comprehension of terms

### **II. TERMS**

Read: Kreeft, pp. 47-67

Topics for discussion: classifying terms; categories; predicables; division and outlining

### **III. MATERIAL FALLACIES**

Read: Kreeft, pp. 68-122

Fallacies of language; fallacies of diversion; fallacies of oversimplification; fallacies of argumentation; inductive fallacies; procedural fallacies; metaphysical fallacies

### **IV. DEFINITION**

Read: Kreeft, pp. 123-137

Topics for discussion: nature of definition; rules of definition; kinds of definition; limits of definition

### **V. THE SECOND ACT OF THE MIND: JUDGMENT**

Read: Kreeft, pp. 138-165

Topics for discussion: judgments; propositions; sentences; meaning of truth; kinds of categorical propositions; logical form; Euler's circles; tricky propositions; distribution of terms.

**VI. CHANGING PROPOSITIONS**

Read: Kreeft, pp. 166-172

Topics for discussion: immediate inference; conversion; obversion; contraposition

**VII. CONTRADICTION**

Read: Kreeft, pp. 173-185

Topics for discussion: contradiction; Square of Opposition; existential import; tricky propositions on the Square; some practical uses of the Square

**VIII. THE THIRD ACT OF THE INTELLECT**

Read: Kreeft, pp. 186-199

Topics for discussion: the meaning of *reason*; foundations of the syllogism; detecting arguments; arguments vs. explanations; truth and validity

**IX. DIFFERENT KINDS OF ARGUMENTS**

Read: Kreeft, pp. 200-214

Topics for discussion: three meanings of *because*; the four causes; classification of argument; simple argument maps; deductive and inductive reasoning; combining induction and deduction: Socratic method

**X. SYLLOGISMS**

Read: Kreeft, pp. 215-236

Topics for discussion: structure and strategy of the syllogism; the skeptic's objection to the syllogism; the empiricist's objection to the syllogism; demonstrative syllogisms; constructing syllogisms

**XI. CHECKING SYLLOGISMS FOR VALIDITY**

Read: Kreeft, pp. 237-263

Topics for discussion: checking by Euler's Circles; checking by Aristotle's six rules; *Barbara Celarent* (mood and figure) Venn Diagram

**XII. MORE DIFFICULT SYLLOGISMS**

Read: Kreeft, pp. 264-288

Topics for discussion: enthymemes (abbreviated syllogisms); sorities (chain syllogisms); epicheiremmas (multiple syllogisms); complex argument maps

**XIII. COMPOUND SYLLOGISMS**

Read: Kreeft, pp. 289-312

Topics for discussion: hypothetical syllogisms; *reduction ad absurdum*; the practical syllogism; disjunctive syllogisms; conjunctive syllogisms; dilemmas

#### **XIV. INDUCTION**

Read: Kreeft, pp. 313-341

Topics for discussion: induction; generalization; causal arguments; scientific hypotheses; statistical probability; arguments by analogy; *a fortiori* and *a minore* arguments.

#### **IF WE HAVE TIME, WE WILL DISCUSS VARIOUS TOPICS IN CHAPTERS FIFTEEN AND SIXTEEN OF KREEFT'S SOCRATIC LOGIC**

#### **ESSAYS**

Careful consideration will be given to your ability to write in a coherent and sustained manner. Make sure each essay is clearly written, employs proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation, and provides support for any assertions made. Clarity, consistency, and persuasiveness are the criteria used in my evaluation of your essays. **ON THE FIRST DAY OF CLASSES, A PRESENTATION WILL BE GIVEN ON HOW TO WRITE AN ESSAY. ESSAY TOPICS WILL BE GIVEN ON THE FIRST DAY OF CLASSES.**

Essays should be handed to Dr. Fox on the due date at the beginning of class. For a serious reason, a student may approach Dr. Fox before the due date, and may be granted an extension at the discretion of Dr. Fox. If Dr. Fox decides that documentation is required for either medical or non-medical academic accommodation, then such documentation must be submitted by the student directly to the appropriate Faculty Dean's Office. It will be the Dean's Office that will determine if accommodation is warranted.

Never submit your essays by campus mail. Never submit your essays by e-mail. You should make a photocopy of your essays. Essays that are late without permission will be penalized 10% each calendar day. **PLEASE NOTE: ESSAYS ARE RECORDED AS HAVING BEEN RECEIVED ON THE DAY THEY REACH DR. FOX'S HANDS.**

#### **EXAMS**

Exams are based on assigned readings, classroom lectures and classroom discussions. It is, therefore, indispensable to attend all classes.

A student who misses an exam for a serious reason may approach Dr. Fox, and may be granted a make-up exam or a re-weighting of the term grade at Dr. Fox's discretion. If Dr. Fox decides that documentation is required for either medical or non-medical academic accommodation, then such documentation must be submitted by the student directly to the appropriate Faculty Dean's Office. It will be the Dean's Office that will determine if accommodation is warranted.

No electronic devices will be allowed during examinations, unless approved in advance by the student Services at the University of King's.

#### **POLICY ON ACCOMMODATION FOR MEDICAL ILLNESS**

Please see: <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>

## **STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC OFFENCES**

“Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

“Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.” Please refer to **Scholastic Discipline** under the Senate **Policy on Academic rights and Responsibilities** at <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>.

“All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (link to Turnitin.com website: <http://www.turnitin.com>.)”