Course Description and Objectives:

This course focuses on the fundamental principles and techniques of classical logic first articulated in Aristotle’s *Organon* and further developed by ancient, medieval and modern thinkers. It also provides the philosophical background to classical logic, serving as an introduction to the basic epistemological and metaphysical concepts of Aristotelian and Thomistic philosophy integral to studying at the DSPT. Thus the course includes a theoretical, philosophical component as well as a practical one. The course is loosely organized around the traditional distinction of the three operations of the mind: simple apprehension, judgment, and reasoning. The course will conclude with an examination of logical fallacies and a brief excursus into modern symbolic logic.

Although a substantial portion of the class will consist of lecture by the professor, there will also be discussion of primary texts selected from the writings of Aristotle, review of assigned exercises, and ample opportunity for student questions. This course partially fulfills the systematic philosophy area requirement for the Philosophy M.A. or Concurrent M.A. options. It also satisfies the philosophical ethics requirement of the Western Dominican Province’s *Ratio Studiorum*. 
By the end of the semester, students should be able to:

- Explain the foundational principles of traditional logic, including intentionality, the three acts of the mind, the nature of logical laws, and Aristotle’s categories.
- Distinguish different types of definition based on an understanding of Aristotle’s account of the predicables, essences, and the difference between essential and accidental properties.
- Identify the basic logical structure of arguments in ordinary language by translating them into proper logical form.
- Recognize relations of immediate logical entailment among propositions using obversion, conversion, contraposition, and the Square of Opposition.
- Distinguish valid and invalid deductive arguments using Aristotle’s six rules for syllogisms, Venn diagrams, and knowledge of syllogistic mood and figure.
- Identify material and formal logical fallacies in public rhetoric and everyday conversation.
- Briefly describe key differences between Aristotelian logic and modern symbolic logic.

**Course Requirements:**

Students will be expected to carefully prepare assigned readings and exercises and participate in class discussion. Assigned exercises should be submitted to the professor for credit (late submissions will receive partial credit), although they will not be graded. The completion of assigned problem sets is an important part of the course. The logical techniques and principles discussed in class are meant to be understood so as to be put into practice, so that logic may truly become a tool for the student’s continuing philosophical and theological study, critical thinking, and responsible leadership. Exercises will allow the student’s knowledge of logic to become practical, integrated, and instinctual. Three examinations (2 midterm exams and a cumulative final exam) will test students’ knowledge of philosophical concepts and facility to apply these in problem solving.

Students are expected to be present for class sessions, following the policies set forth in the DSPT *Student Handbook*. Absences will affect the student’s final grade. Students should plan,
in particular, to be present for all exams listed on the course syllabus (given on **October 6, November 10, and December 18**), since make-up exams will be given only in the event of a serious illness (with doctor’s note) or an equally grave reason. Students with disabilities or whose first language is not English are encouraged to speak with the instructor about any special needs they might have.

**Grading:**

- Assignments (completed, not graded): 20%
- Exams 1 and 2: 40% (20% each)
- Final Exam: 40%

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**Assigned Texts:**


Assignments and weekly reading will be taken from Kreeft’s *Socratic Logic*, which will be the main text for the course. Primary source readings for the class will be selected from Aristotle’s *Categories, On Interpretation, Prior Analytics, Posterior Analytics*, and *Topics*. McKeon’s *Basic Works of Aristotle* is an affordable compilation of these texts, often available for around $15 at online booksellers. Although not all translations are of equal quality, students may feel free to use an edition of Aristotle’s works other than McKeon’s, including public domain texts available online. Supplemental readings will be available on Moodle ([http://moodle.gtu.edu](http://moodle.gtu.edu)).
Course Schedule:

9/8: Course Introduction
   Fundamental Concepts of Logic

9/11: The Principles of Logic and the Problem of Psychologism
   Dimitri Constant, “Frege’s Anti-Psychologism and the Problem of the Objectivity of Knowledge”

9/15: The First Act of the Intellect I: Simple Apprehension
   Signs, Concepts and Terms
   Kreeft: pp. 26-54
   Aristotle, selections from the Categories

9/18: The First Act of the Intellect II: Simple Apprehension
   The Categories
   Exercises: pp. 34 (all), 49-50 (all); 51 (all); 52 (all); 53-54 (all) Kreeft: pp. 54-56
   Aristotle, selections from the Categories
   Jorge J. E. Gracia, “Are Categories Invented or Discovered?”

   The Predicables
   Exercises: pp. 55-56 (all)
   Kreeft: pp. 56-67
   Porphyry, selections from the Isagoge
Types and Limits of Definition
Exercises: 61-62 (all); 64-66 (even)
Kreeft: pp. 123-137
Aristotle, selections from the *Posterior Analytics* and *Topics*

9/29: The Second Act of the Intellect I: Judgment
Propositions
Exercises: pp. 131-132 (II.A, all)
Kreeft: pp. 138-152
Aristotle, selections from *De Interpretatione*
Aquinas, *De Veritate*, q. 1, aa. 1-3, 11-12:
http://dhspriory.org/thomas/QDdeVer1.htm

10/2: The Second Act of the Intellect II: Judgment
Propositions (Continued) and Distribution
Exercises: pp. 132-136 (II, B-C, even)
Kreeft: pp. 152-165
Aristotle, selections from *De Interpretatione*
Optional: Terence Parsons, “The Doctrine of Distribution”

10/6: Exam 1

10/9: The Second Act of the Intellect III: Judgment
Immediate Inference: Conversion, Obversion, Contraposition, and Contradiction
Exercises: pp. 156-159 (A-C, even); 164-165 (all)
Kreeft: pp. 166-174
10/13: The Second Act of the Intellect IV: Judgment
The Square of Opposition
Exercises: pp. 171-172 (all), 174 (all)
Kreeft: pp. 174–185
Raymond M. Smullyan, selections from The Lady or the Tiger? (Class Handout)

10/16: The Third Act of the Intellect I: Reasoning
Types of Arguments and Introduction to the Syllogism
Exercises: pp. 178-179 (all); 182-183 (all)
Kreeft: pp. 186-214
Aristotle, selections from the Prior Analytics and Topics

10/20: The Third Act of the Intellect II: Reasoning
Syllogistic Form
Exercises: pp. 199 (all); 205 (all)
Kreeft: pp. 215-236
Aristotle, selections from the Prior Analytics

10/23: The Third Act of the Intellect III: Reasoning
Syllogistic Form and Determining Validity
Exercises: pp. 219 (all); 234-235 (A-all, B-even)
Kreeft: pp. 237-253
Aristotle, selections from the Prior and Posterior Analytics

10/27 & 10/30: Reading Week (No Class)

11/3: The Third Act of the Intellect IV: Reasoning
Additional Tests for Validity
Exercises: pp. 253-257 (A-all, B-even)
Kreeft: pp. 257-263
Aristotle, selections from the Prior and Posterior Analytics
11/6: The Third Act of the Intellect V: Reasoning
    Difficult/Implicit Syllogisms and
    Compound Syllogisms
    Exercises: Class Handout
    Kreeft: pp. 264-282, 289-312

11/10: Exam 2

    Exercises: pp. 282 (all); 299-301 (even); 302-303 (all); 305-306 (all)
    Kreeft: pp. 68-86
    John Stuart Mill, from Book V of *A System of Logic*, “On Fallacies”

11/17: Fallacies II: Material Fallacies
    Exercises: pp. 72-73 (all) and Handout
    Kreeft: pp. 86-100
    Douglas N. Walton, “The Essential Ingredients of the Fallacy of Begging the Question”

11/20: Fallacies III: Inductive Fallacies
    Exercises: Class Handout
    Kreeft: pp. 100-113, 313-335

11/24: Introduction to Symbolic Logic I: Sentential Logic
    Truth Functionality and Connectives
    Exercises: pp. 317-319 (all), 333-335 (even)
    Selection from *The Logic Book*

11/27: Thanksgiving Break (No Class)
12/1: Introduction to Symbolic Logic II: Truth Tables and Truth Trees
   Exercises: Class Handout
   Selections from *The Logic Book*

12/4: Introduction to Symbolic Logic III: Predicate Logic
   Variables and Quantifiers
   Exercises: Class Handout
   Selections from *The Logic Book*

12/8: Introduction to Symbolic Logic IV: Predicate Logic
   Symbolization in Predicate Logic
   Exercises: Class Handout
   Selections from *The Logic Book*

12/11: The Modern Critique of Aristotelian Logic
   Kreeft, pp. 15–25, 364–69
   Francis Bacon, selections from the *Novum Organon*
   “Vilkko and Hitikka, “Existence and Predication from Aristotle to Frege”

12/18: Final Exam

N.B.: The instructor reserves the right to revise the course syllabus as the need arises.
Additional Resources

The following is list of supplemental and suggested readings. They are by no means required reading for the course, but may be of some interest to students wishing to do additional research in the area of Aristotelian and philosophical logic.


Veatch, Henry. The Two Logics.