

Logic

2008-2009 Syllabus

Thinking is an art, with its own purposes, standards, principles, rules, strategies, and precautions. And it is an art well worth learning, for every important thing we do is affected by our habits of mind.

-Vincent Ryan Ruggiero

Purpose

Logic is a skills course in the Lumen Christi high school humanities program. Class meets twice weekly for one credit hour. The goal in teaching elementary Logic is to enable our graduates to have excellent reading, writing, speaking, and research skills as they prepare for university and for life. Logic is a core skill which supports all others, and is essential for the successful communicator.

First Semester Curriculum

Text: *The Art of Thinking. A Guide to Critical and Creative Thought.* 7th Edition. Vincent Ryan Ruggiero. (NY: Pearson Education, 2004.)

1. The development of thinking:
 - Creating good habits
 - Facts vs. opinions
 - Broadening your perspective
 - Avoiding bad habits (stereotyping, self deception)
 - Distinguishing between taste and judgment, fact and interpretation, literal and ironic statements, language and validity, and modes of expression
2. Becoming a creative thinker:
 - Understanding creativity
3. Becoming a critical thinker:
 - Applying creativity to problems and issues
 - Stages in the creative process
 - Problems vs. Issues
 - Producing ideas
4. Communicating your ideas
 - Obstacles to critical thinking
 - Curiosity, assumptions
 - Solutions, improvements
 - Persuading others

- Presentation of your ideas; timing
- Fallacies
- Argumentation

5. Introduction to Formal Logic

Second Semester Curriculum

Text: *Nonsense. Red Herrings, Straw Men and Sacred Cows: How we abuse Logic in our everyday language.* By Robert J. Gula. (Mt. Jackson, VA: Axios Press, 2007.)

1. Everyday Nonsense
2. Emotional Language
3. Emotional Language: Propaganda
4. Emotional Language: Suggestion
5. Logical Fallacies
6. Irrelevance (Irrelevant Authority; Appeal to Numbers)
7. Diversion (The Red Herring; The Straw Man)
8. Ambiguity and Incorrect Inference
9. Confusion and Incorrect Inference
10. Confusion and Cause and Effect
11. Oversimplification
12. Erroneous Comparison and Contrast
13. Evasion

Grading

- **Tests**—based on the chapter(s) covered; standard objective questions with essays
- **Homework Per Chapter:**
 - Applications—exercises based on the Ruggiero Text
 - Compositions or speeches as assigned
 - Lateness penalty: for each day an assignment is late there will be a deduction of 10 percentage points from the grade
- **EXAMS:**
 - First Semester—Week of December 17-19 (An exam schedule will be posted.)
 - Second Semester —Week of May 18-22
- **Grading Methodology**—all work is worth points based on the amount of effort required to complete the task. Tests will be worth around 100 points; homework worth between 10 and 25 points typically. The final grade will be a percentage grade calculated from the points earned divided by the total possible points.

Instructor: Mary Rose Collins

Email: mrcollins@LumenChristiSchool.org

Telephone: School—632-3904; Home—251-0145

