

Syllabus for HUM 395: Special Topics

Introduction to Logic

I. General Information

Instructor:	Dr. Bret Saunders	E-mail:	bsaunders@johnwitherspooncollege.org
Office Hours:	T/Th 3:00-4:00pm		
Office Phone:	(605) 342-0317	Office:	John Witherspoon College Annex
Semester:	Summer 2017	Schedule:	6/19-22, 8:30am-12:15pm
Credits:	1 CR	Location:	John Witherspoon College

II. Course Introduction

For centuries before the curricular upheavals of the 1960's, logic was a core discipline of liberal arts education. It was a member of the *trivium*, alongside grammar and rhetoric. Logic, "the art of reasoning well," is the study and discipline of critical thinking in ordinary language. Propositional-categorical logic is not only the basis for excellence in persuasive writing; it is also fundamentally similar to mathematical and scientific reasoning: all three involve the discernment of rule-based connections between statements. Categorical logic is also the basis for computer programming ("gate logic"). So when students learn logic, they develop a "deep" skill that potentially enhances every other intellectual endeavor, both in and out of the classroom. More importantly, by bringing attention to order and validity in speech, logic confronts students with the nature of God as the eternal *logos* who is truth and the source of reason.

III. Course Description

The main goal of this course is to guide students to an understanding of the concepts and demonstration of the skills taught in *Introductory Logic* by Nance and Wilson. We will also consider connections between logic and the other disciplines, as well as ways to put logic into practice. Students will need to read the lessons and do some of the exercises. There will be several written assessments but the course will focus on discussing principles and application.

IV. Course Instructor

Dr. Saunders is Assistant Professor of Humanities, Director of the Humanities Program, and Director of Learning Resources at John Witherspoon College. He holds the BA in Liberal Arts and Culture from New Saint Andrews College and the Ph.D. in Philosophy (*Cum Laude*) from the Institute of Philosophic Studies at the University of Dallas. His research interests lie at the intersection of literature and philosophy. He has taught humanities subjects at JWC since 2012. Previously he taught Writing Principles and Philosophy at the University of Dallas.

V. Required Resource

Nance, James B., and Douglas J. Wilson. *Introductory Logic*. 5th ed. Moscow, ID: Canon Press, 2014.¹
ISBN: 159128165-2

¹ To avoid delays, it is best to order this text directly from the publisher ASAP: <http://canonpress.com/new-introductory-logic-student/>