

ARMING APOLOGISTS #10: ARGUMENT CONSTRUCTION

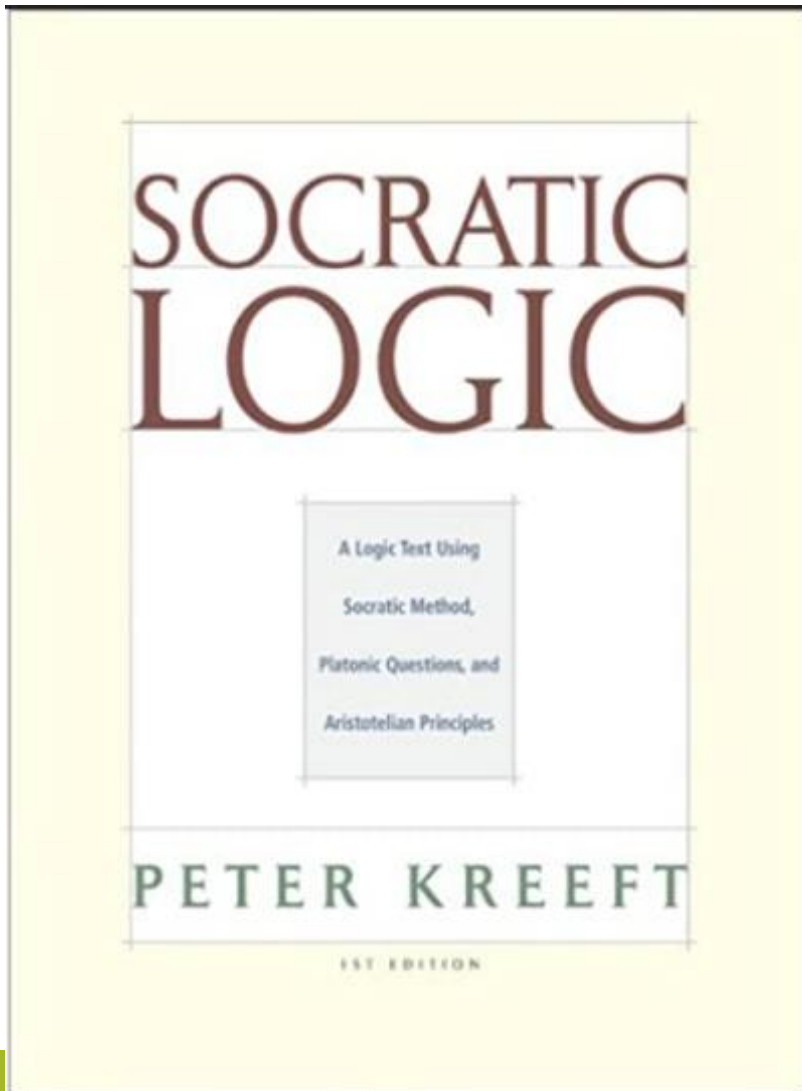
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COURSE OUTLINE

- Questions?
- Reminder: ENGAGE – Explain - Exemplify
- Review MAXIM
- Review 1st, 2nd & 3rd Act of the Mind
- Discuss Argument Construction
- Practical Application Exercise

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



- Southern Evangelical Seminary
 - Dr. Norman Geisler, et al
- *Socratic Logic: A Logic Text Using Socratic Method, Platonic Questions, and Aristotelian Principles*
 - Dr. Peter Kreeft

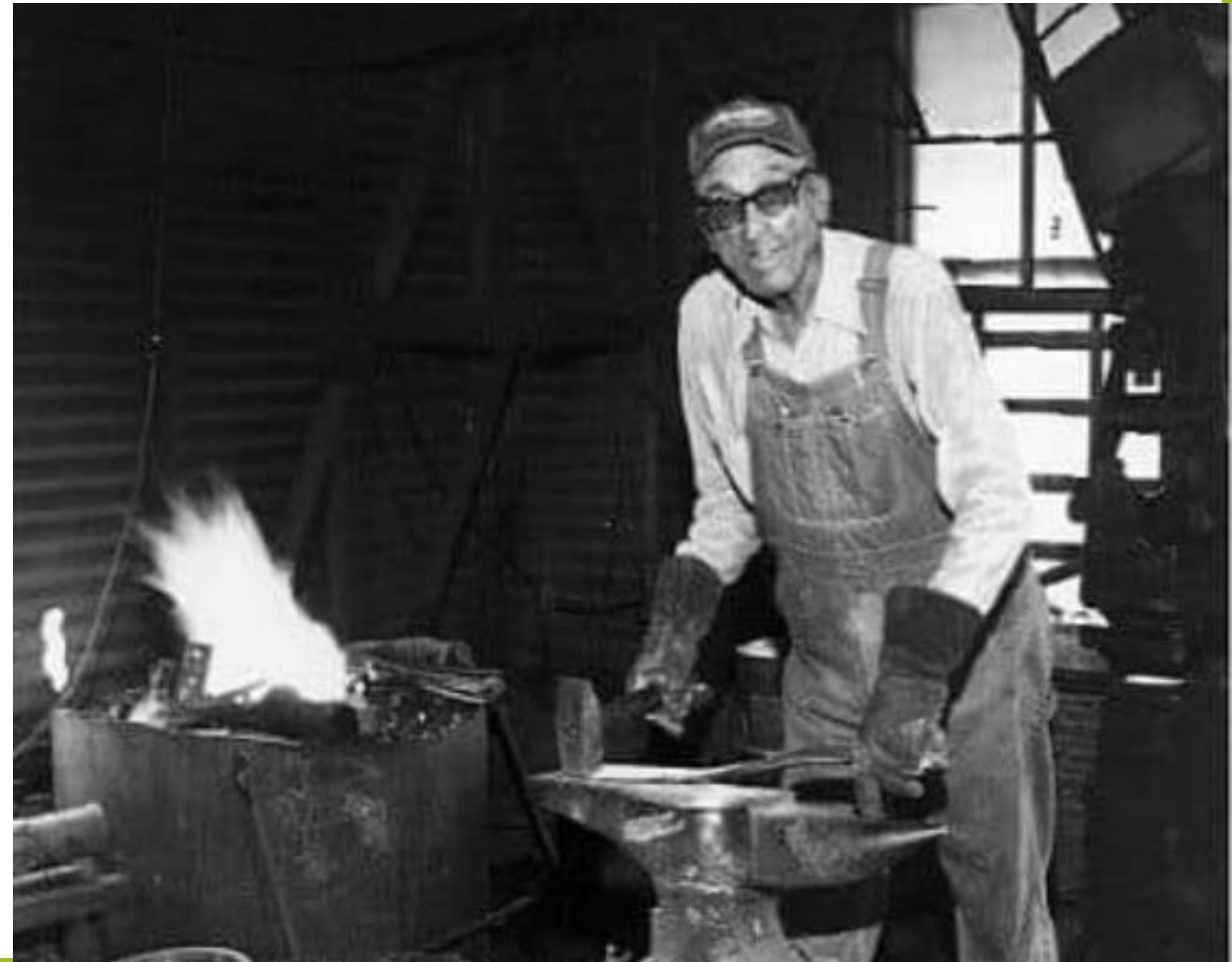
MAXIM: ESTABLISH TRUTH

- Philosophical Apologetics
 - Defending Sound Philosophy (Way of Thinking)
- Tenets of Truth
 - Correlation to Reality
 - Exclusive Nature
 - Absolute Standard
- Law of Non-Contradiction

MAXIM METAPHOR

- Anvil
- Hammer
- Fire
- Metal
- Blacksmith

<https://i.pinimg.com/originals/8e/16/76/8e167684b64be37e942c513853af4f9f.jpg>



1st Act of the Mind

- Apprehension (Act)
- Essence (Reveals)
- What do you mean? (Practical Application)

THREE KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Concepts are immaterial & private
- Terms are either clear or unclear
- Solve ambiguity with definitions

2nd Act of the Mind

- Judgment (Act)
- Existence (Reveals)
- What is your point? (Practical Application)

THREE KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Premises make a truth claim via a declarative sentence
- Multitude of methods for verifying its veracity
- A premise can only be true or false

3rd Act of the Mind

- Reasoning (Act)
- Cause (Reveals)
- Why? (Practical Application)

THREE KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Deductive reasoning, when correct, demands certainty
- An argument can only be valid or invalid
- Validity is not the only, best, or easiest way to defeat an argument

ART OF APOLOGETICS

- “The supreme art of war is to subdue the enemy without fighting.”

Sun Tzu, *The Art of War*

- No attack escapes the Acts of the Mind
- Art of applying the science of logic:
 - Identification
 - Application
- Understanding science vs Employing art

PRACTICAL EXERCISE

- How do we develop skillset of art employment?
- Argument construction (Builder):
 - Recognize materials & their purpose
 - Understand how to deconstruct
- Limitations of exercises:
 - Lack of stress
 - No teacher like experience (Listening)

PRACTICAL EXERCISE

- Step 1 – Draw Card
- Step 2 – Write down your conclusion
 - Passionate topic with understanding
 - Declarative sentence
 - “Therefore,”

EXERCISE EXAMPLE

- Critical Race Theory
- “Therefore, every white person is an oppressor (racist).”
- 5 mins

PRACTICAL EXERCISE

- Step 3 – Write down the best two premises that support your conclusion
 - Try to be as general as possible
 - Try to be as comprehensive as possible
 - These two premises should lead to a valid argument
 - Can use more than two premises

EXERCISE EXAMPLE

- Critical Race Theory
- “Therefore, every white person is an oppressor (racist).”
- Premise #1 – Historically, only white people have enslaved and colonized nations of color.
- Premise #2 – People of color are still suffering while white people continue to thrive and succeed.
- 5-10 mins

PRACTICAL EXERCISE

- Step 4 – For each premise, provide 3 or more supporting justifications
 - Be specific
 - These will be used in your monologue

EXERCISE EXAMPLE

- Premise #1 – Historically, only white people have enslaved and colonized nations of color.
 - Colonial Europeans populated the globe with slaves via the African slave trade
 - Nations outside of Africa were subjugated through colonization by white Europeans, i.e. Central America, South America, Philippines, India, etc., etc.
 - The United States fought a Civil War because half of the country were willing to die to keep slavery alive.

EXERCISE EXAMPLE

- Premise #2 – People of color are still suffering while white people continue to thrive and succeed.
 - Oppression and racism has not changed in America, even after slavery was abolished.
 - The justice system purposely aims to arrest people of color, as demonstrated by the disproportionate amount of people of color in jail.
 - More people of color live below the poverty line and in atrocious living conditions than their white counterparts.
- 10-15 mins

PRACTICAL EXERCISE

- Step 5 – Proceed to your table
 - Clubs – Northeast
 - Spades – Southeast
 - Diamonds – Southwest
 - Hearts – Northwest

PRACTICAL EXERCISE

- Step 6 – Present your argument, using just your justifications, followed by your conclusion
 - Relax
 - Learning can be scary, and painful
- Step 7 – Without discussing, write down the premises and conclusions you identified
 - Be respectful

PRACTICAL EXERCISE

- Step 8 – Once everyone has completed this step, the presenter reveals their syllogism
- Step 9 – Voice any premises that were misinterpreted to the presenter
- Step 10 – Next presenter, and repeat steps 6-9
 - Present justifications
 - Write down premises & conclusion
 - Present syllogism
 - Discuss any anomalies

ENDING EXHORTATION

- Facts do not care about anyone's feelings
- "Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar."

Romans 3:4

QUESTIONS?

- Purpose of Practical Exercises
- Thank you