

ARMING APOLOGISTS #9: THIRD ACT OF THE MIND

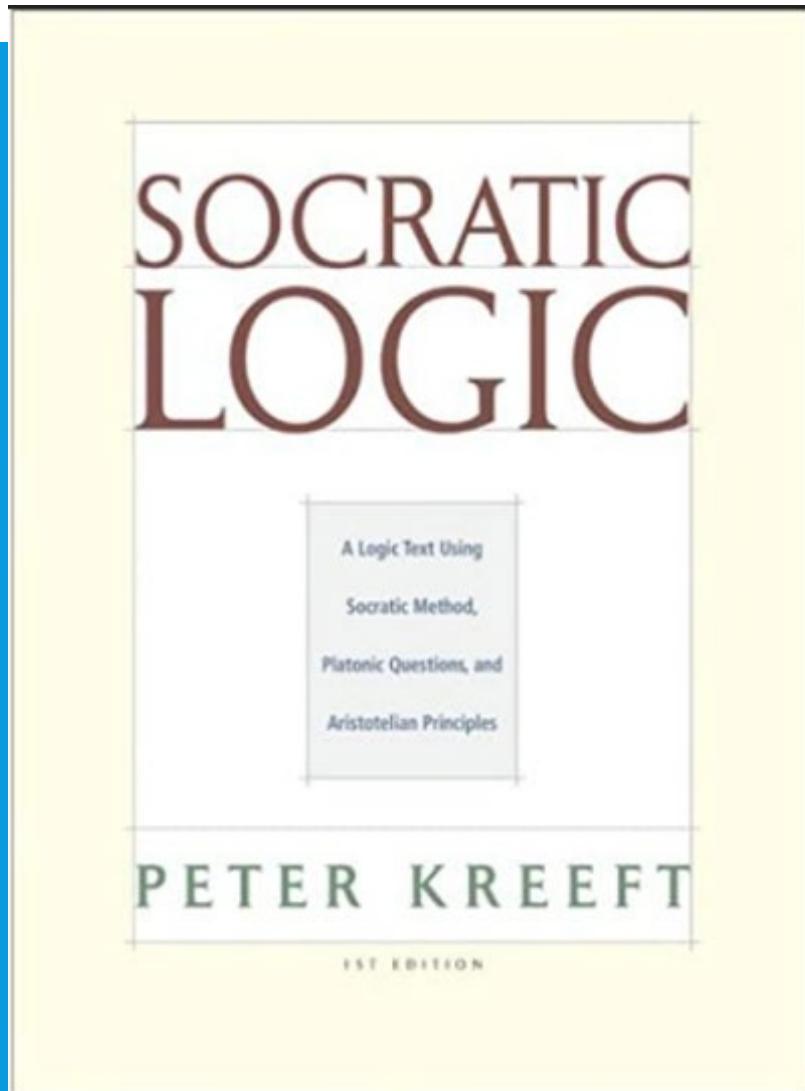
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COURSE OUTLINE

- Questions?
- Reminder: Engage – EXPLAIN - Exemplify
- Review MAXIM
- Review 1st & 2ND Act of the Mind
- Introduce 3RD Act of the Mind

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

FIRST ACT OF THE MIND

- Apprehension (Act)
- Terms (Logical Product)
- Word or Phrase (Linguistic Expression)
- What is it (Question Answered)
- Essence (Reveals)
- Clear *i.e. unambiguous* (Goal)
- Definition of terms (Methodology)
- What do you mean? (Practical Application)

FIRST ACT OF THE MIND

- Three Foundational Take-aways
 - Concepts are immaterial & private
 - Terms are either clear or unclear
 - Solve ambiguity with definitions

SECOND ACT OF THE MIND

- Judgment (Act)
- Propositions/Premises (Logical Product)
- Declarative Sentences (Linguistic Expression)
- Whether it is (Question Answered)
- Existence (Reveals)
- True (Goal)
- Various i.e. evidential, philosophical, anecdotal, etc.(Methodology)
- What is your point? (Practical Application)

SECOND ACT OF THE MIND

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

THIRD ACT OF THE MIND

- Reasoning (Act)
- Argument/Syllogism (Logical Product)
- Paragraph (Linguistic Expression)
- Why it is (Question Answered)
- Cause (Reveals)
- Valid (Goal)
- Rules of Logic (Methodology)
- Why? (Practical Application)

ACT OF REASONING

- Three Aspects of Human Reasoning:
 - Comprehend universal truths
 - Human babies
 - Know necessary & unchangeable truths
 - Triangles (180 degrees)
 - Gain knowledge beyond experience
 - Deductive Reasoning

ACT OF REASONING

- Deductive vs Inductive Reasoning:
- Inductive – reasons from the particular to the universal
 - I am mortal
 - You are mortal
 - Therefore, all men are mortal
- Only yields probability

ACT OF REASONING

- Deductive vs Inductive Reasoning:
- Deductive – reasons from at least one universal (general) premise to a particular conclusion
 - All men are mortal
 - I am a man
 - Therefore, I am mortal
- When correct, yields certainty

SYLLOGISM

- “The syllogism is the heart of logic. It is the easiest, most natural, and most convincing form of argument. Its structure is so simple and perfect that to everyone it is convincing and to some it is even beautiful. Consider the classic example:

SYLLOGISM

- All men are mortal.
- And Socrates is a man.
- Therefore Socrates is mortal.”

Kreeft, Socratic Logic, p215

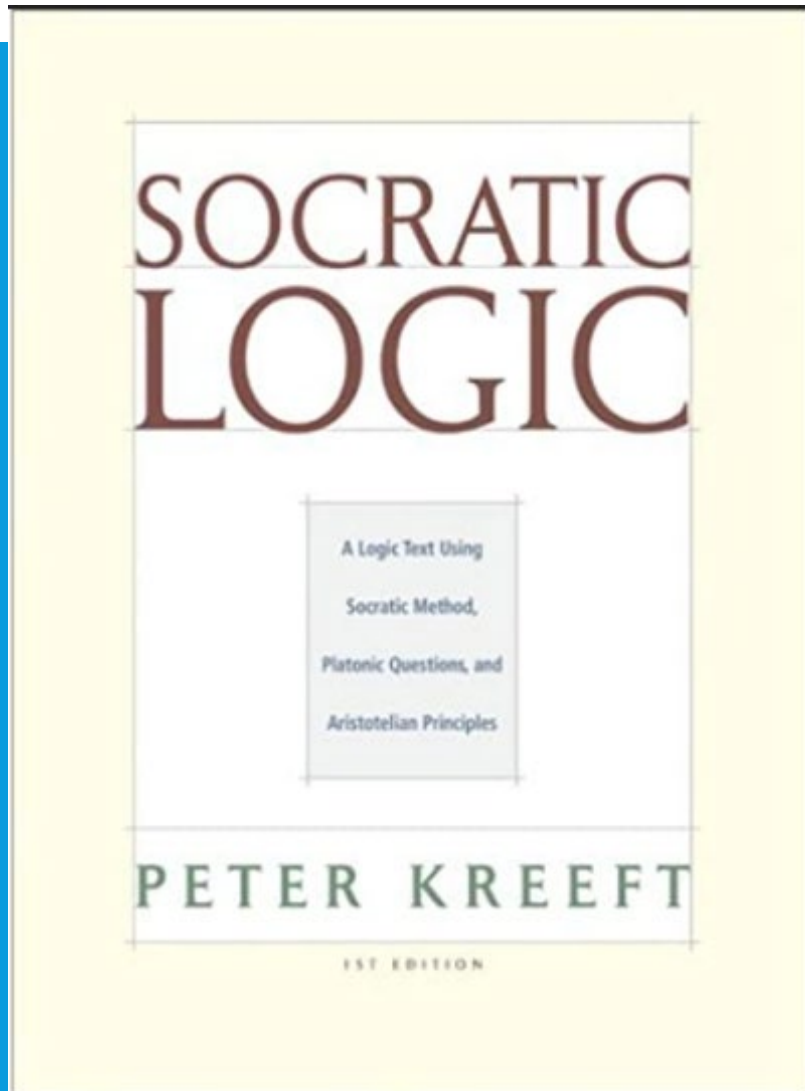
SYLLOGISM

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- Three propositions
- Two Premises
- One Conclusion
- One Paragraph

SYLLOGISM'S NUANCES



- Minor Terms
- Major Terms
- Middle Terms
- Universals
- Law of Identity
- Law of Excluded Middle

TAUTOLOGY

- Self-evident Truth
- Does not need to be proved
 - Bachelors are unmarried
 - Triangles have three sides
- Self Evident Objective vs Subjective
 - Angels are not confined to space

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SYLLOGISM

- Answers the Question
 - Why it is
- Reveals this aspect of Reality
 - Cause
- All men are mortal.
- And Socrates is a man.
- Therefore Socrates is mortal.

SYLLOGISM

- Overarching Goal
 - Valid Argument
- “Arguments are either logically **valid** or logically **invalid**. If they are logically **invalid**, they contain a **fallacy**. The word “fallacy” has a specific and narrow meaning in logic. Not every *mistake* is a *fallacy*. An error of fact, like the belief that the earth is flat, is not called a fallacy in logic, though sometimes it is called that in ordinary language.

SYLLOGISM

- Only an argument can be fallacious, not a proposition. A fallacy is a mistake in *reasoning*. A fallacy makes an argument logically “invalid.” An argument without any fallacies is logically valid: its conclusion follows necessarily from its premises.”

- Kreeft, *Socratic Logic*, p194

SYLLOGISM

- All men are mortal.
- And Socrates is a man.
- Therefore Socrates is mortal.
- 1st Act – Terms clear?
- 2nd Act – Premises True
- 3rd Act – Syllogism Valid, i.e. does the conclusion necessarily follow the premises?
- Valid Argument

SYLLOGISM

- The sky is blue.
- And grass is green.
- Therefore man is mortal.
- 1st Act – Terms clear?
- 2nd Act – Premises True
- 3rd Act – Syllogism Valid, i.e. does the conclusion necessarily follow the premises?
- Invalid Argument

SYLLOGISM

- The earth is a star.
- And no stars are fish.
- Therefore the earth is not a fish.
- 1st Act – Terms clear?
- 2nd Act – Premises True
- 3rd Act – Syllogism Valid, i.e. does the conclusion necessarily follow the premises?
- Valid Argument with a false premise

SYLLOGISM

- All pigs are purple.
- And all purple things are immortal.
- Therefore all pigs are immortal.
- 1st Act – Terms clear?
- 2nd Act – Premises True
- 3rd Act – Syllogism Valid, i.e. does the conclusion necessarily follow the premises?
- Valid Argument with a false conclusion

SYLLOGISM

- *valid or invalid*
- *valid or invalid*
- *valid or invalid*
- *valid or invalid*

SYLLOGISM

- Practical Application
 - Why?
- Preferred Methodology
 - Rules of Logic (Common Sense / Intuition)

PRACTICAL ASSIGNMENT

- Construct a syllogism
- Determine an every day conclusion
- Assign 2-3 premises that validate your conclusion
- Build a conversational monologue that presents your conclusion based on your premises
- Be as indirect as necessary

PRACTICAL ASSIGNMENT

- God isn't real. There are murders, rapes, drugs, alcoholism, racism, you name it, something evil is happening to an innocent person right now. I have lost my mother, I have lost my kids to my horrendous ex-wife. I will never be able to work a job that pays enough, because of this stupid woke world. If there is a God, he obviously hates good, hard working people. But obviously there isn't because how can a child molesting priest go to heaven, when a morally good Muslim dedicated to his family, or an atheist actively promoting love while exercising tolerance burns for eternity in hell fire. Give me a break, you Christians are the evil people spreading this non-sense and causing this social animosity we are currently enduring. God is evil, and if He existed, I would spit in his face, like he is spitting on my life right now.

PRACTICAL ASSIGNMENT

- Evil and God cannot exist together.
- Evil Exists.
- Therefore, God must not exist.
- Art of Apologetics
- Identifying opponent's argument (Argument detection)
- 1st-3rd Acts of the Mind tools

ENDING EXHORTATION

- Question the root, not the fruit
- “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor *can* a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them.”

▪ Matthew 7:15-20

QUESTIONS?

- Thank you

ARMING APOLOGISTS LESSON 9:

THIRD ACT OF THE MIND

Fill in the blanks:

Third Act of the Mind

Mental

Activity –

Logical

Product –

Linguistic

Expression –

Question

Answered –

Reality

Revealed –

Overall

Goal –

Preferred

Method –

Practical

Application –

What makes human reasoning unique? _____

What is the difference between deductive and inductive reasoning? Does it matter?

What is a syllogism? _____

What does it mean to be valid? _____

ARMING APOLOGISTS LESSON 9: THIRD ACT OF THE MIND HOMEWORK

Reread Chapter 1-3 of *Twelve Steps* _____

1. Determine your everyday conclusion? _____

2. Identify two premises that support your conclusion? _____

3. Write your conclusion as a syllogism? _____

4. Test your syllogism: Are the terms clear? Are the premises true? Is the argument valid? _____

5. Write a monologue that incorporates your syllogism into a normal conversation? _____

6. Email your monologue to richard@atholbaptistchurch.org _____

Notecards:

- 1 – Question the root, not the fruit / Matthew 7:15-20 _____
- 2 – An argument can be ... / Valid or Invalid _____
- 3 – Why is it? _____