

### **Seminary Mission Statement**

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

### **Course Description**

The course introduces students to basic principles of logic and critical thinking and how to apply them as part of a Christian intellectual life. Attention will be given to the use of logic in biblical interpretation, theological construction, philosophical explanation, and apologetic and evangelistic presentation.

### **Core Value Focus and Curriculum Competencies**

The seminary has five core values. The core value focus for 2015-2016 is *Mission Focus*. This course supports the five core values of the seminary.

- *Doctrinal Integrity*: Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. Our confessional commitments are outlined in the “Articles of Religious Belief” and the “Baptist Faith and Message 2000.”

- *Spiritual Vitality*: We are a worshipping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word.

- *Mission Focus*: We are not here merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

- *Characteristic Excellence*: What we do, we do to the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

- *Servant Leadership*: We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us.

The seminary has seven curriculum competencies: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Discipleship Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. This course addresses all curriculum competencies.

### **Netiquette: Appropriate Online Behavior**

Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online on the Discussion Board. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is expected at all times in the online environment.

### **Academic Honesty Policy**

All graduate and undergraduate NOBTS students, whether on-campus, internet, or extension center students, are expected to adhere to the highest Christian standard of honesty and integrity when completing academic assignments for all courses in every delivery system format. The Bible provides our standard for academic integrity and honesty. This standard applies whether a student is taking tests, quizzes, exams, writing papers, completing Discussion Boards, or any other course requirement.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

1. Students will be introduced to the basic principles of logic by completing class units.
2. Students will be introduced to the basic principles of logic by reading the primary text and working through numerous homework examples.
3. Students will demonstrate an understanding of basic principles of logic when tested through quizzes and exams.
4. Students will demonstrate an understanding of basic principles of logic by identifying valid and invalid arguments as well as logical fallacies they encounter through reading and watching television, movies, etc.

### **Course Teaching Methodology**

The course will utilize instructional videos, reading assignments, practical exercises in logic, and quizzes/exams.

### **Web-Based Learning Statement**

Web-based courses are, by nature, a different kind of learning experience than courses taught in the traditional classroom. Because of this structure, this web-based course is more reading and writing intensive than traditional classroom courses. Rigorous study of the deep things of God can be a rewarding experience for anyone who participates in it, but it also calls for extra diligence and integrity in completing the work. This reality does not mean that a web-based course cannot be successful in equipping you, the student, for effective, God-honoring ministry. It simply means utilizing a different strategy. Internet courses allow room for independent learners to thrive—to work at a responsible pace, to engage in student-led discussions, and to take ownership of the learning of course content. Note that your instructors are praying for your success.

### **Tech Assistance Contacts:**

Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)

BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.

ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.

504.816.8180 - Call for any technical questions/support requests.

www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

### Grading

Grades will be assigned on the basis of the NOBTS grading scale.

### Evaluation

Quiz average	20%
Homework average	20%
Midterm exam	25%
Final exam	25%
<u>Fallacy Journal</u>	<u>10%</u>
	100%

### Texts

#### REQUIRED

Layman, C. Stephen. *The Power of Logic*, 3rd ed. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2005.

### Assignments

1. *Quizzes:*
  - a. Quizzes are based solely on the reading assignment for each unit. They are closed notes and textbook. Students have 20 minutes to take each quiz. The quiz will not auto-submit, but student will be docked points for going over time limit.
  - b. *Due:* Each quiz will be due at the end of **each week of the course on Saturdays, 11:59pm** via Blackboard. Late work policies are described in policy section of syllabus.
2. *Homework Exercises:* These are assigned homework exercises at the end of each section in the assigned readings. They will teach the student how to practically apply the concepts and techniques related to the principles of logic covered in each chapter.
  - a. *Due:* Each assignment will be due at the end of **each week of the course on Saturdays, 11:59pm** via Blackboard. Late work policies are described in policy section of syllabus.
3. *Fallacy Journal:* Student will submit a journal that cites one example of each informal fallacy that the student encounters throughout the semester in media, literature, social media, etc. Student will (1) note the fallacy found, (2) describe the example found and how it is an example of fallacy, and (3) provide reference

to the example (bibliographical, website address, etc.). The student may not use any search engine to find the example of a fallacy. For example, the student may not search using the words “informal fallacies, informal fallacy examples,” or “equivocation, equivocation example,” etc. The student may intentionally search for debates, philosophical arguments, articles, news outlets, etc. by using a search engine for research. The goal of the assignment is for the student to become better at identifying fallacies through the normal course of their interaction with argumentation. **Due July 22nd, 11:59pm** via Blackboard.

### Policies

Quizzes of specific units are required to be taken **by 11:59pm on Saturday of each week**. No late quizzes will be accepted. Exercise assignments are due 11:59pm on Saturday of each section of units. Homework will be accepted for two weeks after due date. If turned in past due date, five points will be deducted from homework's grade. Once past one full week late, ten points will be deducted from homework grade. Homework will not be accepted after two weeks from the due date, and the student will be given a zero for the assignment.

### Course Outline

#### SECTION ONE : Due June 4th

COURSE INTRODUCTION	
<i>Topic</i>	<i>Why Study Logic and Critical Thinking</i>
Exercise Assignment	

UNIT ONE:	
<i>Topic</i>	<i>Basic Concepts</i> What Is an Argument? Validity and Soundness Forms and Counterexamples Well-Known Forms Strength and Cogency
Reading Assignment	Chapter 1
Exercise Assignment	Exercises: 1.1 Part C even, 1.1 Part D even of 1-10, 1.2 even of 1-10, 1.3 Part A even, 1.4 Part C odd of 1-10, and 1.4 Part D odd
Quiz	Quiz 1

<b>UNIT THREE:</b>	
<i>Topic</i>	<i>Informal Fallacies</i> Fallacies of Reference Fallacies of Ambiguity Fallacies of Unwarranted Assumptions
Reading Assignment	Read Chapter 4
Exercise Assignment	
Quiz	Quiz 3

**SECTION TWO: June 11th**

<b>UNIT FOUR:</b>	
<i>Topic</i>	<i>Statement Logic: Truth Tables</i> Symbolizing English Arguments
Reading Assignment	Read Chapter 7.1
Exercise Assignment (30 Problems)	Do Exercises: 7.1 A even and 7.1 C all

**SECTION THREE: June 18th**

<b>UNIT FIVE:</b>	
<i>Topic</i>	<i>Statement Logic: Truth Tables</i>  Truth Tables
Reading Assignment	Read Chapter 7.2
Exercise Assignment	Do Exercises: 7.2 A all
Quiz	Quiz 4

<b>UNIT SIX:</b>	
<i>Topic</i>	<i>Statement Logic: Truth Tables, continued...</i> Using Truth Tables to Evaluate Arguments
Reading Assignment	Read Chapter 7.3
Exercise Assignment (40 Problems)	7.3 A even and 7.3 C 1-5
Quiz	Quiz 5

**SECTION FOUR: June 25th**

<b>UNIT SEVEN:</b>	
<i>Topic</i>	<i>Truth Tables, continued.....</i> Abbreviated Truth Tables
Reading Assignment	Read Chapter 7.4
Exercise Assignment	Do Exercises: 7.4 A even

<b>UNIT EIGHT:</b>	
<i>Topic</i>	<i>Truth Tables, continued.....</i>  Tautology, Contradiction, Contingency, and Logical Equivalence
Reading Assignment	Read Chapter 7.5
Exercise Assignment (22 Problems)	Do Exercises: 7.5 A 1-14 even and 7.5 C even
Quiz	Quiz 6

**EXAM ONE (UNIT NINE): DUE JUNE 29th, 11:59pm**

**SECTION FIVE: Due July 2nd**

<b>UNIT TEN:</b>	
<i>Topic</i>	<i>Statement Logic: Proofs Implication Rules of Inference</i>
Reading Assignment	Read Chapter 8.1
Exercise Assignment	Do Exercises 8.1 even of C. 8.1 E #1
Quiz	Quiz 7

<b>UNIT ELEVEN:</b>	
<i>Topic</i>	<i>Statement Logic: Proofs Five Equivalence Rules</i>
Reading Assignment	Read Chapter 8.2
Exercise Assignment (20 problems)	Do Exercises 8.2 C 1-10
Quiz	Quiz 8

**SECTION SIX: Due July 9th**

<b>UNIT TWELVE:</b>	
<i>Topic</i>	<i>Statement Logic: Proofs, continued.... Five More Equivalence Rules</i>
Reading Assignment	Read Chapter 8.3
Exercise Assignment	Do Exercises: 8.3 C 1-10 and E #2-and 9
Quiz	Quiz 9

**SECTION SEVEN: Due July 16th**

<b>UNIT THIRTEEN:</b>	
<i>Topic</i>	<i>Statement Logic: Proofs, continued....</i> Conditional Proof
Reading Assignment	Read Chapter 8.4
Exercise Assignment	Do Exercises 8.4 A 1-10 even, B #4, C #5

<b>UNIT FOURTEEN:</b>	
<i>Topic</i>	<i>Statement Logic: Proofs, continued....</i> Reductio ad Absurdum
Reading Assignment	Read Chapter 8.5
Exercise Assignment	Do Exercises 8.5 A 1-10 even, D #3

<b>UNIT FIFTEEN: EXAM 2: Due July 22nd</b>	
<i>Topic</i>	<b>FINAL</b>

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