

# Logic

## Class Description



Welcome to Introductory Logic! It is my hope that this class will help you to hone your critical thinking skills. First Peter 1:13 says to “gird your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” In order to gird our minds for action, we need to learn to think clearly. The ultimate goal is to “love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind” (Matthew 22:37-38, emphasis mine). But we also need to be careful. As I Corinthians 8:1b warns, “Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies...” We want to be critical thinkers; but we must not allow our new-found thinking skills to cause us to become prideful or arrogant. Recognizing fallacies in the statements of others can help us avoid being deceived, but we must never think we are better than others. Rather we should use these skills to keep our mind aligned with God’s truth and share it effectively with others.

The emphasis of this class is formal, Aristotelian logic (Introductory) and Modern Symbolic Logic (Intermediate). Our primary text is *Introductory Logic*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, by Wilson and Nance and *Intermediate Logic*, by Nance. We will also spend some time studying informal fallacies and critical thinking skills. Each class and homework assignment will include a lesson from the text, an informal fallacy, and some sort of logic puzzle (which I am calling “Cranium Callisthenics” just for fun). I hope you will participate actively in class. Discussions in class will add a great deal to everyone’s experience.

These are high school classes worth one-half credit each. The final grade will be based on a point system. Each homework assignment will be worth a possible 20 points (making-up 25% of the total grade). Class attendance and participation each week is worth 5 points (10%). Participation includes arriving on time, engaging in class and not being disruptive. There will be six tests, worth 100 points each (50%). The final exam is worth 240 points (15%). In addition, there will be optional, extra-credit projects, worth up to 60 points total (5%).

Homework will be due at the beginning of each class. Assignments that are turned-in late will have 2 points deducted, with an additional 2-point deduction for each additional week they are late.

I have set-up a web page for our class on my site: <http://www.wanvigs.net>. The website contains the homework assignments, class information, extra credit projects, an optional point log, and additional resources. I hope you find it helpful.

Finally, I am asking parents to help hold students accountable for using these thinking skills well. If any parent hears his/her student using lessons learned in class to argue unkindly or disrespectfully, I would ask you to let me know. Students will be docked 5 points for each occurrence!

Be forewarned, this class can be challenging! The homework assignments are not long. The reading in the text is short. The challenge comes in the *thinking*. Attention to detail is critically important. Taking time to think is not something our culture seems to practice or value; but God does value this important skill.

I am truly looking forward to a great year of fun and learning together!

~Mrs. Wanvig~