Course Purpose and Description
The purpose of this course is to introduce you to the principles and techniques of formal and informal reasoning. We will cover the nature of logical argument, traditional and modern methods of constructing formal proofs of validity and invalidity of deductive arguments, identification of common errors in informal reasoning, and critical evaluation of advertising and media arguments. The course is designed to improve reasoning, problem solving, and analytic skills in theoretical and practical contexts.

The material covered will be especially beneficial to those interested or majoring in mathematics, computer science, or pre-law, and is excellent preparation for standardized tests of analytical skills (e.g., the GRE and LSAT).

Required Texts

On library reserve: chapters 7 and 8 from *Logic and Contemporary Rhetoric*, Kahane (Wadsworth, 1992).

Course Schedule
The first half of the course will cover Chapters 1-4 of *Logic & Philosophy*. Chapter One examines the basic elements of an arguments, argument forms and their instances, and the difference between truth and validity. Chapter 2 explains the role of truth-functions, and the various truth-functional connectives, as well as the symbolization of sentences with variables and connectives. In Chapter 3, we will begin to construct truth tables to test for validity and consistency of deductive arguments. Chapter 4 deals with the construction of proofs for determination of validity.

The second half of the course will cover Chapters 13 and 14 of *Logic & Reasoning*, and Chapters 7 & 8 of *Logic and Contemporary Rhetoric*. Chapter 13 covers traditional syllogistic logic, including the square of opposition and validity testing with Venn diagrams and syllogisms. From Chapter 14 you will learn to identify a range of informal fallacies. Chapters 7 and 8 of *Logic and Contemporary Rhetoric* explore the uses and abuses of informal reasoning in advertising and the news media.

The chapters to be covered may be modified slightly in accordance with our progress as the semester proceeds.

Requirements
Reading and exercises will be assigned for nearly every class. You are expected to attend class, to be familiar with the assigned material, and to be prepared to present your exercise answers to the class. Missing three or more classes will result in a full grade reduction. If attendance or preparation for class is unsatisfactory, I may give unannounced quizzes or collect exercises
assigned for homework. Academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated, and will be dealt with in accordance with University policy, as described in the Student Handbook (p. 37).

Every second or third week (depending on our progress), you will be tested on the material just covered. In addition, a cumulative mid-term and a cumulative final (on the second half material only) will be given. It is YOUR responsibility to be aware of test dates and the material to be covered on tests, which will be announced in class as early as possible. In the event of an absence when an exam is scheduled, you must notify me in advance of the absence or if there is an emergency as soon as possible after the emergency. If you miss because of an emergency, I expect you to document it. No make-up examinations will be given otherwise.

Your final grade will be an average of all test grades, with mid-term and final counting double. For example, if six regular tests are given, each will count as 10% of the final grade, while mid-term and final will each count 20%. If quizzes or homework collection become necessary, their weight in the grading will be at my discretion. The final percentage can be multiplied by .04 to determine the grade according to the plus/minus four-point system (A=4.0, A-=3.7, B+=3.3, B=3, etc. For further details, see the Undergraduate Catalog, p. 27).

Note on Disabilities
Certain disabilities, such as dyslexia, may cause special difficulties in this course. If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accomodations or emergency evacuation, please contact me as soon as possible.

Office Hours
As listed above, my office hours are Monday & Wednesday, 2:00 to 3:00, and Tuesday, 2:00 to 4:00. I will be spending these hours in my office for the sole purpose of being available for your questions. If these times are not convenient for you, and there is something you need to discuss with me, please ask to make an appointment. Messages can be left with the Social Sciences secretary (PH 411) at 341-5462. You are also welcome to address inquiries to me via email at toadvint@emporia.edu.