

Objectivist Logic

ARU Syllabus

Last updated: April 17, 2025

COURSE TITLE: Objectivist Logic

COURSE YEAR AND QUARTER: 2025 Q3-Q4

PREREQUISITE COURSES

200-level courses require that students are enrolled in or have completed the “16-Week Objectivism Seminar” (which has the Fiction course as a prerequisite) or have completed the “Intensive Seminar on Objectivism”.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Ayn Rand embraced Aristotelian logic but developed logic much further. This course covers that “much further”: Ayn Rand’s original, ground-breaking, and immensely practical discoveries regarding *concepts*—their formation, use and misuse. The course not only presents and “chews” the theory, it also provides training in the *method* of thinking that made Ayn Rand . . . Ayn Rand.

COURSE DURATION: 16 weeks

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- consciously bring to bear new or previously unidentified methods of cognition
- defend the absolutism of logic against all attacks and subversions
- recognize and quarantine invalid concepts
- use three methods to combat “floating abstractions”
- define any term
- know how to “think in principles”

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Lead Instructor:

Harry Binswanger

Dr. Binswanger, Ph.D. in philosophy, was an associate of Ayn Rand’s and is editor of The Ayn Rand Lexicon and co-editor of the revised edition of Ayn Rand’s Introduction to Objectivist Epistemology. He is the author of How We Know and The Biological Basis of Teleological Concepts and was the founding editor/publisher of The Objectivist Forum. In addition to owning and moderating the Harry Binswanger Letter.

Lead TA:

Dan Schwartz

WEEKLY COURSE OVERVIEW

Classes begin on April 21 and end on September 8, 2025.

The following is an outline of course, not a weekly progression:

1. What is logic and why does man need it?
2. The hierarchy of mental operations
3. Concept-formation
4. The hierarchy of concepts
5. Connecting to reality: concretization, definition, reduction
6. Invalid concepts
7. Proposition-formation
8. Defective Propositions and arbitrary assertions
9. Thinking in principles
10. Inference: deduction and induction

CLASS SCHEDULE

Class times are Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:00-2:20 PM PT.

Office hours are 30 minutes, and start 5 minutes after each class.

Quarter 3

Week 1: Monday, April 21, and Wednesday, April 23

Week 2: Monday, April 28, and Wednesday, April 30

Week 3: Monday, May 5, and Wednesday, May 7

Week 4: Monday, May 12, and Wednesday, May 14

Week 5: Monday, May 19, and Wednesday, May 21

Week 6: Monday, May 26, and Wednesday, May 28

Week 7: Monday, June 2, and Wednesday, June 4

Week 8: Monday, June 9, and Wednesday, June 11

Quarter 4

Week 9: Wednesday, July 9, and Monday, July 14 (Note the Wednesday start)

Week 10: Wednesday, July 16, and Wednesday, July 23 (No class on Monday)

Week 11: Monday, July 28, and Wednesday, July 30

Week 12: Monday, August 4, and Wednesday, August 6

Week 13: Monday, August 11, and Wednesday, August 13

Week 14: Monday, August 18, and Wednesday, August 20

Week 15: Monday, August 25, and Wednesday, August 27

Week 16: Monday, September 1, and Wednesday, September 3

READINGS

Galt's Speech

How We Know, Chapters 3 – 9, 11

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments will normally be weekly. The questions on theory will be answered by a paragraph or two each; the assignments on application will be short-answer and are designed to provide training in the operations and techniques taught. There will also be a final exam

OVERALL COURSE GRADE:

Assignments, averaged, count as 60% of the final grade.

The final counts as 40% of the final grade.

GENERAL POLICIES:

Familiarize yourself with the [ARU Handbook](#) if you have not already done so. Unless specified otherwise in this syllabus, all policies in the Handbook are in effect for this course.

COURSE WEBSITE:

Logistical details about the course are available at the course website[LINK to be provided by ARU], including:

- Live class schedule and Zoom link for attending live classes
- Recordings of past classes
- Office hour details, including links to book an appointment
- Teaching assistant information
- How to join the ARU Discord server

The course website is also accessible through your dashboard after logging into the [ARU website](#). Contact aru@aynrand.org if you have any issues accessing the site.

COURSE COMMUNICATION:

- Course announcements are posted in the Announcements tab of the course website and automatically emailed to all participants. Please make sure you are receiving these emails and that they are not going to your spam folder. If you join after the start of class, be sure to check the Announcements tab for anything you may have missed.
- For questions about course content, structure or schedule, please ask during the live class or in the course channel on the ARU Discord server (see the Discord tab of the course website). Questions about your assignments and grades should be directed to the teaching assistant.

- For personal administrative issues (e.g., website problems), contact aru@aynrand.org.
- If you have a technical issue preventing submission of an assignment, email your assignment to the Instructor or TA and cc: aru@aynrand.org to troubleshoot the matter.