ST. AUGUSTINE'S SEMINARY **COURSE DESIGNATOR:** SAT 1710HF

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT. THE OFFICIAL COURSE SYLLABUS WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE FIRST CLASS.
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TITLE: BASIC LOGIC **TERM:** F **YEAR:** 2009-2010

PROFESSOR: DR. PAMELA J. REEVE

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO_____ UNLIMITED _____

COURSE DESCRIPTION: A systematic introduction to critical thinking: how to identify and evaluate arguments and explanations; criteria for assessing the soundness of claims based on authority, expertise, and personal experience; dealing with conflicting claims and inconsistencies; identifying hidden premises and conclusions; how to evaluate surveys and opinion polls; identifying factors that impede critical thinking: bias, emotion, persuasive strategies, and irrelevance.

CLASS OBJECTIVES: The aim of the course is practical: to acquire and hone a skill-set that will support students in their academic reading, research and writing as well as dealing with various kinds of information and claims encountered in daily life. The course will facilitate the development of the power of critical thinking and the capacity for reasoned judgments through an engagement with different kinds of inference: inductive, deductive, analogical, causal and explanatory.

PREREQUISITES: None

REQUIRED TEXT: *The Power of Critical Thinking,* Canadian Edition, Lewis Vaughn & Chris MacDonald (Oxford University Press, 2008). The table of contents and online student resources are available at the following links:

http://www.oupcanada.com/catalog/9780195425031.html
http://www.oupcanada.com/higher_education/companion/philosophy/9780195425031/student_resources.html

POSSIBLE ASSIGNMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/TESTS:

– 10 homework assignments (70%); mid-term quiz (10%); final exam (20%)

ABRIDGED BIBLIOGRAPHY: