



The Logical Structure of Objectivism

“Beta” Version

By William Thomas and David Kelley



Preface to the “Beta” Version

This volume is a working draft, produced for the “Logical Structure of Objectivism” course at the 1999 Institute for Objectivist Studies Summer Seminar. The purpose of the “beta” version is to provide the course participants with a textbook, and to allow us, the authors, to obtain a wider reader response before we do our final revisions on the first edition. In effect, we are inviting the course participants to contribute to the re-writing process.

Readers may notice that this is a rough document in several respects. The earlier chapters are more polished than the later ones. The notes are still incomplete, and although it is mentioned at several points in the text, there is as yet no “fold out diagram” to show the entire pattern of argument in one page. The text has not received the meticulous proof-reading for typographical errors that one expects of a book published for sale. All these shortcomings are the sign of a work-in-progress. As such, this “beta” version is not for resale or scholarly citation. Of course, all rights to the text and diagrams are reserved.

Nevertheless, this version is the product of a thorough composition process, and it is essentially sound. We stand behind the logic of the arguments and the appropriateness of the evidence on which they are based. Although we anticipate further revisions before publication, we expect these to be largely stylistic. The “beta” version is home cooking, but it is an intellectual meal for all that.

But first, a word of thanks: We are especially grateful for the comments and support we have received from Frank Bubb, Eyal Mozes, David Ross, Roger Donway, and Donald Heath, and also for the contributions of many others. We thank them for the improvements that have resulted from their comments, but, to practice what we preach, we take full responsibility for the final product.

Feel free to dig in.

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