

PHI515: Special Topics in the History of Philosophy

Spring 2020

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Galen: *Introduction to Logic*

Galen's *Introduction to Logic* was written at some point in the second century AD. It does not appear in the standard edition of Galen's works, C. Kühn, *Galen Opera Omnia*, 20 vols., in 22 books, Leipzig, 1819-33, since it was only discovered on Mount Athos in 1842, by the Franco-Greek adventurer, Minoïdes Mynas. The manuscript Mynas discovered dates from the 12th century, and is the only surviving witness to the text. It is difficult to read in many places, and obviously corrupt in others. Moreover, the first page has been torn in half down the middle, and so only the right hand half of each line remains.

The work is a short textbook on logic. It is the earliest surviving complete work on logic after Aristotle's *Prior Analytics* (despite postdating it by 500 years), and deals with three areas of logic: predicative syllogistic (broadly speaking, Aristotelian syllogistic), hypothetical syllogistic (a kind of propositional logic, somewhat similar to Stoic logic), and relational syllogistic. Relational syllogistic is Galen's own invention, mentioned only here in his entire oeuvre, and lost to view by the history afterwards. Roughly speaking, it is Galen's attempt to deal with multiple quantification.

Galen was the most important doctor of antiquity after Hippocrates, and his surviving works comprise about one tenth of all the writings we have in Greek pre-350AD. The seminar will start with a short introduction to Galen's intellectual outlook, and the importance that he places on logic (explaining why he, a doctor, should have written an introduction to logic in the first place). We will then read through the work, concentrating on particularly interesting or difficult parts of the text.

The class will focus on the following questions:

1. What is Galen's conception of predicative syllogistic? How does his presentation differ from Aristotle's?
2. What is Galen's conception of hypothetical syllogistic, and how does his system differ from that of the Stoics?
3. What is relational syllogistic? Is there a single logical form which will cover all the cases Galen gives?

Thus, the class will also serve as a survey of the history of logic from Aristotle to Galen.

Although the class will devote most time to discussions of these philosophical issues, there will be some discussion of the difficulties that the manuscript presents. (The translation that Barnes and Morison have made also contains textual notes, so those who know no Greek will be able to follow the discussion.)

The standard edition of the *Introduction to Logic* is Kalbfleisch's Teubner from 1896. Recently, Jonathan Barnes and Benjamin Morison have prepared a new edition from the sole manuscript (Parisinus supp grec 635), together with a translation and commentary. This edition and translation (and commentary) will be the basis for this class, and relevant excerpts will be posted on Blackboard, as will an electronic copy of the manuscript.

Provisional syllabus

1. February 7th: Introduction to Galen and ancient medicine; the discovery of the manuscript of the *Introduction to Logic*; the contents of the *Introduction to Logic*.
2. February 14th: *Introduction to Logic* i, and problems of reconstruction.
3. February 21st: introduction to Stoic Logic: hypothetical connectives, indemonstrables, *themata*, and the technique of analysis of complex arguments.
4. February 28th: *Introduction to Logic* iii-iv: hypothetical propositions.
5. March 6th: *Introduction to Logic* v-vi; xiv-xv: hypothetical syllogisms.

6. March 13th: introduction to Aristotelian logic: the four predications, the three (or four?) figures of the syllogism, conversion, *reductio*.
7. March 27th: *Introduction to Logic* vii-xi: predicative syllogisms.
8. April 3rd: Galen and the fourth figure; Arabic sources; the anonymous scholiast on compound syllogisms.
9. April 10th: *Introduction to Logic* xvi: relational syllogisms (1)
10. April 17th: *Introduction to Logic* xviii: relational syllogisms (2)
11. April 24th: *Introduction to Logic* xvii: interlude in discussion of relational syllogisms? Overview of Galen's views on relational syllogisms.
12. May 1st: Overview.

Bibliography (all available through Blackboard)

- Barnes, J., “‘A third sort of syllogism’: Galen and the logic of relations’, in R. W. Sharples (ed.), *Modern thinkers and ancient thinkers: The Stanley Victor Keeling Memorial Lectures at University College London, 1981-1991* (London, 1993), 172-194
- Barnes, J., et al., *Alexander of Aphrodisias: On Aristotle Prior Analytics 1.1-7* (London, 1991), appendix on Aristotelian Syllogistic
- Barnes, J., and Morison, B., *Galen: Introduction to Logic*, edition, translation, and commentary, 2 vols. (Oxford, forthcoming)
- Bobzien, S., ‘Peripatetic Hypothetical Syllogistic in Galen – Propositional Logic off the Rails?’, *Rhizai* 2 (2004), 57-102
- Bobzien, S., ‘Stoic Syllogistic’, *Oxford Studies in Ancient Philosophy* XIV (1996), 133-192
- Morison, B., ‘Logic’, in R. J. Hankinson (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion To Galen* (Cambridge, 2008), 66-115