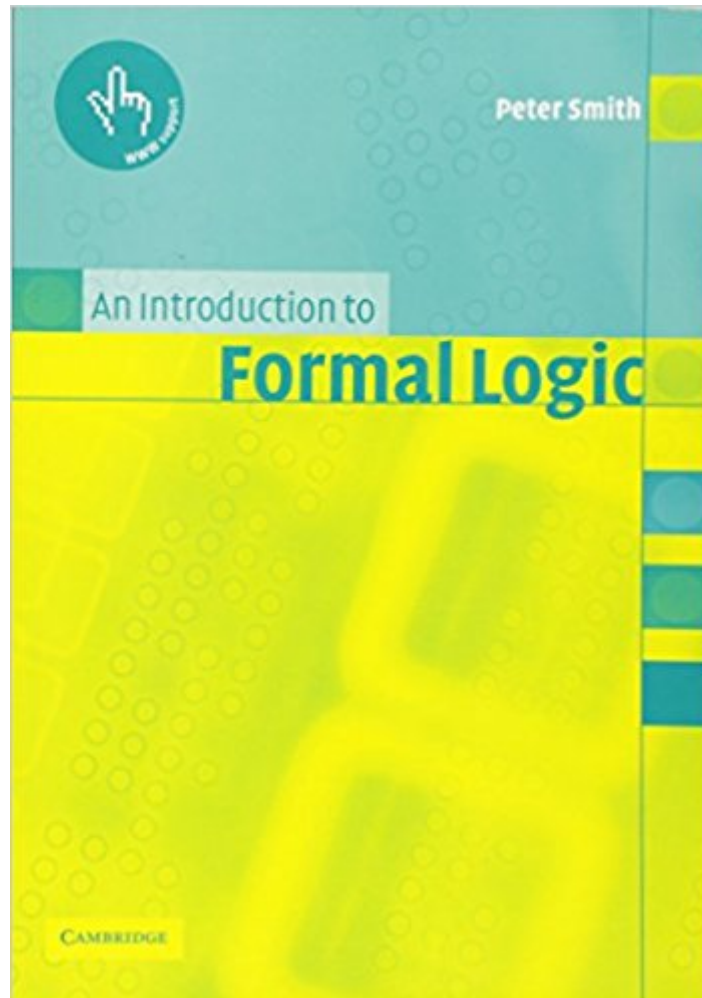




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An Introduction To Formal Logic



Synopsis

Peter Smith introduces the reader to the languages of propositional and predicate logic, and then develops formal systems for evaluating arguments translated into these languages, concentrating on the easily comprehensible "tree" method. His commentary is supplemented with examples and exercises, making the text appropriate for a first logic course. The book will also provide a basis for further research in formal and philosophical logic.

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Customer Reviews

This is a highly accessible guide to the fundamental aims and basic elements of formal logic. Peter Smith introduces the reader to the languages of propositional and predicate logic, and then develops formal systems for evaluating arguments translated into these languages, concentrating on the easily comprehensible 'tree' method. His discussion is richly illustrated with worked examples and exercises, and also provides provides illuminating philosophical commentary. It will make an ideal text for a first logic course, and will provide a firm basis for further work in formal and philosophical logic.

Peter Smith's publications include *The Philosophy of Mind* (1986) and *Explaining Chaos* (1998).

Great book, but a background in logic would be nice.

Very readable, easy to follow.

To be clearer than Peter Smith is simply next to impossible. This book is a beautiful entry-point, a must, in the world of logic. This book now stands in my list of outstanding books on logic :1. A. Tarski's "Introduction to Logic", a jewel, followed by P. Smith's superb entry-point "An introduction to Formal logic" and the lovely "Logic, a very short introduction" by Graham Priest2. D. Goldrei's "Propositional and Predicate calculus"3. Wilfrid Hodges' "Logic", followed by Smullyan's "First-order logic".4. P. Smith's "An introduction to Gödel's theorems".5. Kleene's "Introduction to metamathematics" & "Mathematical Logic".6. G. Priest's "Introduction to non-classical logic". Hence forgetting altogether Van Dalen's indigestible "Logic & Structure" as well as the even more indigestible Enderton, Mendelson & al...

It's especially useful for persons who are going to learn logic by self-study. Logic is a very important and fundamental subject. Unfortunately, the supply for this kind of textbooks is not enough in the region I'm living!

This text provides a very gentle introduction to formal logic. The chapters are short and punchy, and difficulty rises gradually. I would strongly recommend it as a supplementary text for a student studying formal logic.

This book is terrible. Horribly written. It does have great examples, which is where the stars come from, but written horribly.

I was expecting to read a book about Formal Logic - this book is about Formal Logic unfortunately it contains a bit more- The Author, Peter Smith, can't seem to help himself from advocating for his apparent favored metaphysical worldview of reality, which via an inductive argument would lead me to suspect is atheistic naturalism. It is annoying enough that the author uses confusing Lewis Carroll examples as he attempts to explain logical inference; he needs to take little jabs at theism at several points throughout the book. I made it only as far as Chapter 4 when the Darwin advocacy drove me over the edge. If I want to read a book that advocates for militant atheism I will read something by Richard Dawkins or Christopher Hitchens. Hey Peter Smith, if you are going to make examples of what you consider to be "quantifier shift fallacies" using pathetic watered down strawmen of theistic arguments for God, why don't you balance it out a little bit and lay out some arguments that

demonstrate what a bunk worldview naturalism is?--- at least the reader would come away with the common sense notion that you were trying to play it fair and balanced. In Chapter 1 Mr. Smith uses an "intelligent design" example and asks the reader to evaluate it for deductive validity, of course the author is quick to indicate that "entire books have been written about it but it is not deductively valid" He also uses the conceivability argument from Descartes but does not make any conclusions about the deductive validity of this argument - interesting. I figured maybe he would throw something in about the question begging nature of certain materialistic explanations of reality, yet these were strangely absent in the comparative sense. In Chapter 4, Smith can't help but bash Aristotle, quote "Did Aristotle really use the terrible argument"? Smith apparently thinks he did. Smith continues his advocacy for materialism by preaching at the end of Chapter 4, where Smith states, "It is perhaps worth noting that a number of SUPPOSED arguments for the existence of God commit the same quantifier shift fallacy." Peter Smith then begins to erect the strawman (1) Every causal chain has an uncaused first link C: God uncaused cause at the first link Then Smith throws in a strawman argument for design (1) Every ecological system has a designer, C: God made every ecological system Smith explains that it's wrong to reach the conclusion that a single God caused each thing to exist or that a single master designer built all ecological systems, there could after all be many designers ----- Duh, yeah, if you set the argument up that way, sure Smith -- I don't know many theists that use arguments like these, though. Why do I need to read about this in your book? Lastly, Peter Smith can't help himself again after using erecting the strawman argument for design, stating "THOUGH THAT IS A PREMISE WHICH DARWIN EXPLODED" -- really, Peter Smith? It would have been a different story had the author used some horrible arguments for naturalism that are frequently used by militant atheists like Dawkins, but for some strange reason Peter Smith couldn't seem to present a fair and balanced approach remaining content to focus on theism. If you are going to read a book on formal logic and are a theist, I would choose another --- if you are a militant atheist, this is definitely the book for you as you and the author would appear to share a commonality. Peter Smith should have used an example like the KCA instead of the garbage he pedaled off as being representative of arguments used by theists. KCA --- Everything that begins to exist, has a cause THE UNIVERSE (not everything Pete), began to exist, Therefore, the universe has a cause In the future, I would suggest Mr. Smith re-evaluate titles of books he authors if he intends to advocate for a particular metanarrative of reality. For example, this book would best be titled "Formal Logic In The Setting Of Metaphysical Naturalism." At least this way, readers would know what they are getting into before buying the book.

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