Rules of Syllogism

<rules of language>

1. Must contain only three terms, each of which is used in the same sense throughout the argument

: The fallacy of four terms

* Due to the ambiguity of language

<rules of distribution>

1. The middle term must be distributed in one or more premises (at least once)

: The fallacy of the undistributed middle

1. If either term is distributed in conclusion, then the said term must have been distributed in the premises (rule of major & minor term)

* “the conclusion cannot speak of more than premises” (latin name?)

: The fallacy of an illicit major/minor

<rules of quality>

1. Avoid two negative premises (one negative is okay)

* Can’t have EE, EO, OO, OE as premises

: The fallacy of exclusive premises

1. If a premise is negative, then the conclusion must be negative

* “the conclusion follows the ‘weak’ premise”

: The fallacy of affirmative conclusion from negative premise

1. If both premises are affirmative, then conclusion is also affirmative

* Basically the same as Rule #5

<rules of quantity>

1. There cannot be two particular premises (one particular is okay)

* Can’t have IO, OO, II, OI as premises
* Will only lead to partially or completely exclusive relations

1. If a premise is particular, then the conclusion is also particular

* “the conclusion follows the ‘weak’ premise”

<Notes>

#1 The existential rule is not regarded in this class!

Existential rule = If both the premises are universal, no particular conclusion can be drawn.

* But in this class this is dismissed.

#2 Beware of the exceptions of distribution in propositions A & I

= The rules only apply under NORMAL distributions!

A (universal affirmative): P can be distributed if the proposition is a definition.

Ex. “All water are H20”

I (particular affirmative): P can be distributed if P is a subset of S

Ex. Some humans are Dutch men.

* In this case, ‘Dutch men’ is a subset of ‘humans’, and is distributed