

Anselm of Canterbury's Ontological Argument

Logic!! Yay :)

Anselm of Canterbury (1033-1109)

- Theological thinker, articulated the “ontological argument”
- Emphasized the importance of the language used in argument and the innate meaning of words versus their connotation.
- Significant written works: *Cur Deus Homo* (“Why God Became a Man”), *De Grammatico*

The Argument

- Definition of God: God is “a being which nothing greater can be conceived”

Validity vs. Soundness

Validity: an argument is valid if the structure is that, assuming the premises are true, the conclusion cannot be false. If all premises are true, that leads to a true conclusion. ALSO, if all of the premises are false, then the conclusion must ALSO be false for the argument to be valid.

Soundness: An argument is sound if it is both valid and all of its premises are true, and the logical structure means that the conclusion follows from the premises. SO, if all the premises are true, and the conclusion is therefore also true, this means the argument is both valid and sound.

-For an argument to be valid, we must accept all of the premises.

→ Is existence in reality a necessary component of being the greatest conceivable being?