

One of the first argument forms that we will look at in §2.3 is *modus ponens*. We will see that it has the following valid form:

**Example:**

*If  $p$ , then  $q$ .*

$p$

$\therefore q$ .

If you are in this class, then you are a USF student.

You are in this class.

$\therefore$  You are a USF student.

- ▶ This is a sound argument because the form used is valid and each premise is true: you are in this class and being in this class implies that you are a USF student.
- ▶ Even if I were talking to someone not in this class, the argument remains valid. It's just not sound.
- ▶ Observe that making an unsound argument gives no insight into the truth of the conclusion: someone not in this class might be a USF student or they might not be.