Logic: Livy & Conditional Syllogism Hum 110, Reed College Prof. Laura Leibman

To Deny the Antecedent:

If antecedent, consequent If you want to be run over, stand in the street,

Consequent Denied You did not stand in the street

Antecedent Denied Therefore you did not want to be run over

To Affirm the Consequent:

If antecedent, consequent If this proposition is true, then the contradictory is false.

Antecedent Affirmed This proposition is true

Consequent Affirmed Therefore its contradictory is false.

Example from Lucretius:

If things came from nothing, the world would be random
The world is not random: things grow when the seasons are right
Therefore everything grows up and is nourished from its own proper
manner (i.e. things do not come from nothing). (ll. 175-191)

Example from a student paper:

If Livy valued women, he would present feminine actions as virtuous Livy presents masculine, not feminine, acts as virtuous Livy does not value women.