Welcome!

PHL 301
Introduction to Philosophy

http://philosophical.space/philosophy

Professor Daniel Bonevac
bonevac@austin.utexas.edu
WHAT IS PHILOSOPHY?
WHAT IS PHILOSOPHY?

- Philo (love) + sophia (wisdom)
- Philosophy is the love (or pursuit) of wisdom
- Wisdom is good judgment
- So, philosophy is the love (or pursuit) of good judgment
WHAT IS PHILOSOPHY?

• Philosophy begins in wonder
• At the world
• At what we do
• At our nature
• Wonder —> reflection —> critical examination
METAPHYSICS

- The study of what there is
- What is the world made of?
- What kinds of things are there?
- What is real? What is merely apparent?
- What am I?
EPISTEMOLOGY

- The theory of knowledge
- How do I know?
- What is knowledge?
- Can I have knowledge of anything at all?
- If so, where do I get it?
- Can I know anything independently of experience, through philosophical reflection alone?
ETHICS

- Ethics is practical—pertains to action
- So, ethics is the pursuit of good judgment about action—
- about what to do, and how to decide
- about what kind of life to lead, what kind of person to be
WHAT IS PHILOSOPHY?

- Seek wisdom and virtue
- Lead an examined life
- Reflect on what life is and ought to be
- Put your life in perspective
- To see and reflect on “the big picture”
WHAT IS PHILOSOPHY?

“The unexamined life is not worth living.”
- Socrates
WHAT IS PHILOSOPHY?

The aim of philosophy, abstractly formulated, is to understand how things in the broadest possible sense of the term hang together in the broadest possible sense of the term.
WHAT IS PHILOSOPHY?

Under 'things in the broadest possible sense' I include such radically different items as not only 'cabbages and kings', but numbers and duties, possibilities and finger snaps, aesthetic experience and death.
WHAT IS PHILOSOPHY?

It is therefore, the 'eye on the whole' which distinguishes the philosophical enterprise....
PLATO OR ARISTOTLE?
Empiricism: All knowledge comes from experience.

Rationalism: We can know something about the world independently of experience. (That is, some knowledge of the world is innate.)
EMPIRICISM
EMPIRICISM
RATIONALISM
RATIONALISM
REALISM V. IDEALISM
REALISM OR IDEALISM?

- Realism: Some things are independent of mind.
- Idealism: Everything is mind-dependent.
REALISM
IDEALISM
CLASSICAL RATIONALISM

Realism

Rationalism
CLASSICAL EMPIRICISM

Realism, Empiricism
SKEPTICISM

Idealism

Empiricism
The most practical discipline
The most practical discipline

Dad, I've decided to major in Philosophy.

That's good because they just opened that big Philosophy factory in Green Bay.