



So...What is Philosophy?

THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF THE DISCIPLINE

What is it?

- ▶ The Three basic Issues:
 - ▶ Being, Knowing, Doing
- ▶ Common Questions:
 - ▶ What exists?
 - ▶ Is existence organized?
 - ▶ What counts as knowledge?
 - ▶ How do we know?
 - ▶ How should we act?
 - ▶ Do we act according to a human nature?

Why ask Why?

- ▶ You live your life according to ideas and assumptions about what the world is like that you picked up along the way.
- ▶ If you aren't satisfied with the way things are, you may need to rethink your ideas about what reality is all about.
 - ▶ This is what philosophers do.
 - ▶ Life
 - ▶ God
 - ▶ Human nature

Why Study Philosophy?

- ▶ Greek, meaning “Love of Wisdom.”
- ▶ Clarify your thinking
- ▶ Thinking about thinking
- ▶ Philosophy branched into
 - ▶ Science
 - ▶ Economics
 - ▶ Sociology
 - ▶ Psychology
 - ▶ Theology
 - ▶ Etceterology

The Lexicon of Philosophy

- ▶ The creation of isms: Turn an noun into a verb, then back to a noun again.
 - ▶ For example: I believe Mickey Mouse holds the answers to life's deeper questions, therefore I *Mickeyize* my understanding of life, therefore I subscribe to *Mickeyism*.
 - ▶ Sophism, skepticism, stoicism, rationalism, idealism, naturalism, materialism, pragmatism, existentialism, antidisestablishmentarianism, etc.
 - ▶ Sometimes for a person (Marxism)
 - ▶ Sometimes for a time period (post-modernism)
 - ▶ Just about every point of view is an *ism*

The Three Big Types of Philosophy

- ▶ Ontology: The study of being or existing.
- ▶ Epistemology: The study of knowing.
- ▶ Ethics: the study of moral and social behavior.

- ▶ Can we separate them?
 - ▶ Plato vs Descartes
 - ▶ Greek philosophy vs Greek Mythology

The Least You Need to Know:

- ▶ Whether you know it or not, you've got a philosophy. You can't help but define reality for yourself.
- ▶ This course will help you sort out your ideas as well as those of others, and will help you decide which of them have meaning for you.
- ▶ Philosophy consists of all kinds of thinking, including the social sciences, natural sciences, math, and religious thinking.
- ▶ The three main branches of philosophy are ontology (being), epistemology (knowing), and ethics (acting).

