History of Western Philosophy Kookmin University

Peter Lee, Spring 2019

L01

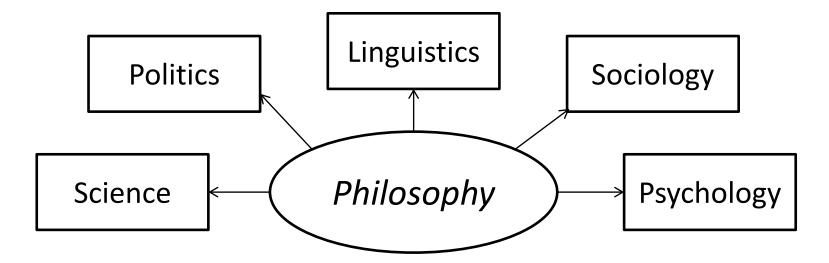
- Course Introduction
- Introduction to Philosophy



Philosophy:

philo (loving) + sophia (knowledge, wisdom)

- What is philosophy?
 - asking (difficult) questions
 - coming up with (rational) answers



- What remains are unresolved questions.
- "There is no shallow end in philosophy." [Anthony Kenny]

What is real? What is the world (cosmos) made of?

Does life have a purpose? How should I live my life?





Do we cease to exist when we die? Or do we live on?

Does God exist? If so, why is there evil in the world?



What is truth? How do we know anything?

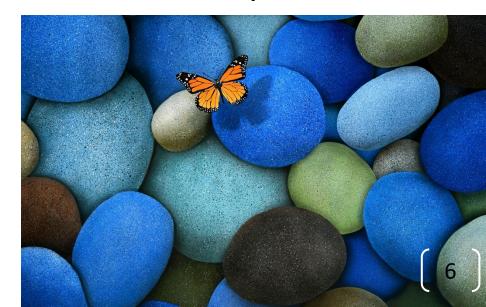
John 18:37-38

"For this reason I was born and have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to My voice."

"What is truth?" Pilate asked.



What is beauty?



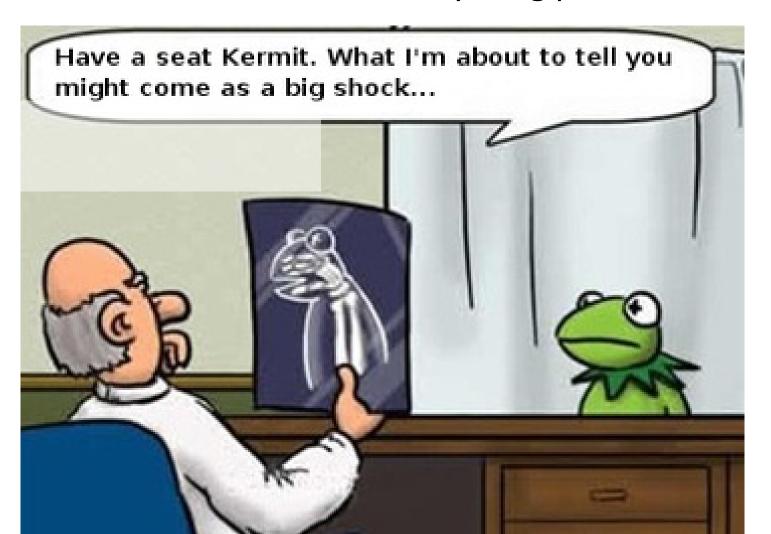
What is the best form of government? Are we all created equal? Is this true?

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776. A DECLARATION BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, IN GENERAL CONGRESS ASSEMBLED.

HEN in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the Separation.

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness—That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Sasety and Happiness. Pradence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and accordingly all Experience hath shew, that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while Evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the Forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long Train of Abuses and Usurpations, pursu-

Do we have free will? Or is everything predetermined?



The intellectual legacy of civilization:



Western Philosophy

- Metaphysics / ontology (what is real?)
- Epistemology (what do we know?)

- Logic
- Ethics (how should we live?)
- Aesthetics (what is beautiful?)
- Social and Political Philosophy
- Philosophy of Mind
- Philosophy of Language
- Philosophy of Science

- Greek (Classical) Philosophy:
 Pre-Socratics | Socrates, Plato, Aristotle
 Post-Aristotle: Epicureanism, Stoicism, Skepticism
- Early Christian and Medieval Philosophy: Augustine, Aquinas
- Enlightenment Philosophy:
 Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz | Locke, Berkeley, Hume
- Kant | German Idealism: Fichte, Hegel, Schopenhauer
- Existentialism: Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Satre, Camus
- Utilitarianism: Bentham, Mill
- Continental Philosophy: Husserl, Heidegger
- Analytic Philosophy: Wittgenstein, Russell, Quine

Next Week:

The Pre-Socratics and Cosmologies (1)