

This make philosophy different than lots of other classes you will take. Your physics professor does not ask you to come up with your own take on gravity; she'll ask you to learn and apply the theory of gravity on which physicists have agreed.

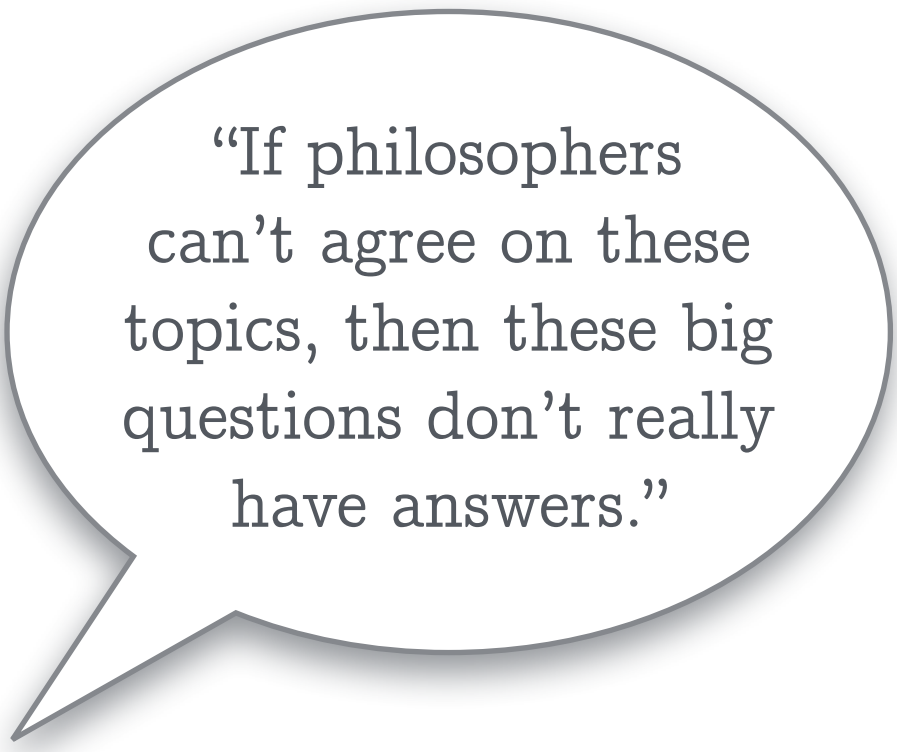
Why is philosophy like this? A short answer: philosophers can't agree.

This sometimes drives students crazy. I'll give the best arguments on both sides of an issue, and students will want to be told which argument is the winner. I won't do this — and this can lead to one of two frustrated responses.

This response does not make a lot of sense.

There are also topics about which scientists disagree. For example, biologists disagree widely about the origins of life on earth. Does that mean that there is no answer to the question of how life on earth really originated? Of course not.

Similarly, whether or not we can figure out the answers to them for sure, questions like ‘Does God exist?’ clearly do have answers. What’s the alternative — that God sort of exists and sort of doesn’t?

A large, light gray speech bubble with a dark gray outline and a drop shadow. The bubble has a tail pointing towards the bottom left corner. Inside the bubble, the text is centered and reads: "If philosophers can't agree on these topics, then these big questions don't really have answers."

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