

**CORE106-10 Fall 2015**

**September 29**

**Whiteboard Notes on Socrates and Crito**

Why is the opinion of an ordinary observer useful, relative to an expert?

- Fresh perspective.
- The perspective of someone with shared experience to our own.
- The power of aggregating a large number of perspectives compared to only one, even if that one is an expert when everyone else is not.

Critique of Socrates's Arguments in Crito:

- His model of deference to authority in Crito frustrates the potential of social change. If you never disobey the law, you will always, definition, defer to an unjust order.
- It creates status quo bias. In other words, not challenging authority slows progress.
- Complex social problems require a greater willingness to challenge.
- Status quo bias protects elite authority.
- Socrates want to challenge presumed wisdom. Isn't an exercise of authority always based on some presumption of wisdom and knowledge that needs to be challenged?