# Intro to Philosophy

## February 14, 2013

* **The Turing Test**
  + In WW2 he deciphered German codes.
  + Alan Turing thought that a computer will have proven its intelligence if it can pass as a human in instant-message conversations
  + If a computer passes the Turing test, would it definitely have a mind?
* **How to make a Russell-Style Argument from Analogy?**
  + Step 1) Describe some similarities between the target and how you were at some time
    - P1) He’s shouting and flipping the bird, just like I did that time last year
  + Step 2) Say what your mind was like then
    - P2) I was really angry then
  + Step 3) Conclude that the target’s mind is probably like that too
    - P3) So he’s probably really angry too
  + The downside is the small sample size.
* Abductive Arguments
  + C best explains, predicts what we’ve observed
  + “Inference to the best explanation”
    - Flipping the switch turns the light on
    - When you rub a balloon on your head, it then will stick to the wall
    - The theory of electrons predict these things will happen, whereas other theories can’t explain it.
    - So, electrons (probably) exist
    - Note: The conclusion uses further concepts (electrons) not used in the observations (lights, balloons) that support it.
    - Simpler explanations are better!
  + Specify an observation O that needs to be explained. List all hypotheses that might possibly explain O.
  + Compare hypothesis using Ockham’s razor or prediction principle
  + Conclude that the best explanation is probably true.
* The Mind/Body Problem
  + What is the relationship between our minds and things in the physical world?
    - Are our minds part of the physical world?
    - Are our minds independent of the physical world?
    - In general, what would make something (physical or non) be a mind?
  + Dualism
    - Take mental states to be something additional beyond the physical?
  + Physicalism (or materialism) – material is made up of physical matter
    - Most physicalists accept that we have mental states like pain; but Eliminativists deny this.
  + Eliminativism
    - Give up on the claim we have mental states?
  + Behaviorism
    - Locate mental states in the physical world
  + Identity Theory
    - Locate mental state in the physical world
    - Pain = c-fibers firing