# Intro to Philosophy

## March 22, 2013

* **Philosophy of Religion**
  + **What do we mean by “gods’**
    - A god would be worth of worship (All-PKG)
      * A person (has thoughts, feelings, desires)
      * Powerful (Omnipotent)
      * Knowledgeable (omniscient)
      * Morally Good (omnibenevolent)
  + **Pascal’s Wager**
    - “God is, or He is not.” But to which side shall be incline? [Evidential] Reason can decide nothing here.
    - Let us weigh the gain and the loss in wagering that god is…
      * If you gain, you gain all;
      * If you lose, you lose nothing.
    - Wager then, without hesitation, that He is.
  + **Evidential vs. Prudential Reasons**
    - Suppose Ben Stein offers you a million dollars to believe that he is a beautiful woman.
    - Should you believe that Ben Stein is a beautiful woman?
    - Your evidence strongly suggests that Ben Stein isn’t even a woman – so you have evidential reason to believe he’s not a beautiful woman. But the million dollars sure would be nice, so you have prudential reason to believe he is a beautiful woman.
  + How does Pascal’s Wager differ?
    - The bribe is (allegedly) offered by God, not Ben Stein – God might be harder to trick.
    - The bribe is an eternity in heaven, apparently an infinite value.
    - There is uncertainty about whether God actually exists to offer the gribe, whereas there was no uncertainty in our simple case about whether Ben Stein was actually offered the bribe.