# Intro to Philosophy

## March 28, 2013

* **Motivation for “Natural Theology” - Using Observation to learn about God**
  + **It seems coherent to imagine that our universe might have been designed by any of a number of different creators**
    - A sick sense of humor
    - A sadist
    - A bit forgetful
    - Lazy or indifferent
    - A conflicted committee
  + To determine what personal characteristics (get rest of ppt)
* **Descartes – I want to show a perfect God exists without using any evidence from my senses. (God’s presence will then persuade me to trust my senses)**
* **Paley – I want to use evidence from my senses to show that God exists, and is as perfect as His creation. My senses can persuade me to trust in God.**
* **Paley’s (1836) Design Argument**
  + Warm-Up: What if we discovered a watch on the beach? By attending to the intricacy and complexity of the watch, it seems reasonable to conclude that it was made by an intelligent designer.
  + Now: When we look at the intricacy and complexity of the universe (or of living things), shouldn’t parallel reasoning lead to (get form PPT)
* Modus Tollens (Deductive Argument)
  + Observation: The ace of hearts is in her hand.
  + H1: Every card in her hand is black
  + H2: Every card in her hand is red
  + When we make an observation that some hypothesis completely predicted we would not make, then we should rule out that hypothesis. And shift our credence to the competing hypothesis.
* The Prediction Principle
  + Observation: The ace of hearts is in her hand.
  + H1: Most cards in her hand are black.
  + H2: Most cards in her hands are red.
* Paley’s Watch
  + Observation: This watch is intricate, complex, and well-functioning
    - H-Random: The watch was produced by a purely random process
    - H-Design: The watch was produced by an intelligent watch-maker.
* Origins of the solar system
  + O: The planets have stable orbits and don’t crash into eachother.
  + H-Random: The solar system started as a spinning cloud of randomly moving dust particles.
  + H-God: The planets and orbits were designed by God
  + Which hypothesis most strongly predicts we would see O?
    - Random predicts that gravity would pull dust into larger bodies, and bodies not in stable orbits would have collided long ago, leaving only stable ones now.
    - Does H-God predict all the unlivable planets?
* Explaining Complex Life
  + Observation: Organisms are intricate, complex, and well suited to their environment
  + H-Random: Modern species were produced by a purely random process
  + H-Creationism: Modern species got their features from an All-PKG designer.
  + H-Evolution: Modern species got their features from evolution by natural selection.