

What Can I Know?

(18) Doubting our Beliefs

- Describe the differences between Aristotelian science and modern science
- Describe these central features of modernity:
 - The new science
 - Emphasis on the individual
 - Questioning tradition and authority
- Explain the traditional understanding of knowledge and belief
- Describe the two basic models of justification
 - Coherentism
 - Foundationalism
- Explain why Descartes thinks the sciences need a new foundation
- Explain Descartes' skeptical approach, and how it is related to the following:
 - Methodological doubt
 - Dreams and demons
 - Radical skepticism

(19) Cartesian Dualism

- Explain Descartes' "*Cogito* Argument"
- Explain Borges' story, and how Descartes would understand it
- Explain Descartes' answer to the question: What am I?
 - Explain what he means by *Res cogitans*
- Describe Descartes' reconstruction of the world
 - Solipsism
 - Proving God's existence
 - Clear and distinct ideas
- Explain Cartesian Dualism and its puzzles
 - Two kinds of substance
 - Substances and attributes
 - Human beings as mind/body complexes
 - Problem of mind/body interaction

(20) Locke's Empiricism

- Distinguish rationalism and empiricism
- Describe Locke's view of the human mind at birth
- Describe innate ideas, and arguments for and against their existence
- Describe atomism
- Explain Locke's distinction between qualities and ideas
- Explain the importance of distinguishing ideas from their causes
 - representational theory of ideas
 - real objects and sensible objects
- Explain the difference between primary and secondary qualities

Is There a God?

(21) Believing and Disbelieving in God

- Explain how one might justify "belief in God"
- Explain the difference between theism, atheism, and agnosticism
- Explain why belief in God might be thought problematic
 - "God of the Gaps"
 - Plurality of religions
 - Problem of evil
- Explain Durkheim's explanation of religious belief
- Explain Freud's explanation of religious belief
- Describe the three kinds of religion discussed by Einstein

(22) Faith and Reason

- Explain the different concepts of the word 'faith'. How does Aquinas understand it?
- Describe Theism, Deism, and Fideism
- Describe natural and revealed religion
- Describe general and special revelation
- Explain and evaluate Rousseau's arguments against revealed religion
- Explain the kinds of proofs of God's existence, and the philosophical positions regarding these

(23) The Argument from Design

- Describe Paley's argument for God's existence
- Explain the difference between the teleological argument and the argument from design
- Explain the features of a "machine-like structure" (MLS) and the nature of purpose.
- Explain how evolutionary biology weakens the argument from design
- Describe and evaluate the three kinds of design arguments (from the possibility of science; from the anthropic principle; from irreducible complexity)
- Describe Begley's understanding of the relationship between religion and science

(24) The Problem of Evil

- Describe the basic features of a theodicy: What is it and why is it needed?
- Explain the difference between viewing evil as an instrumental good and as a by-product of the good
- Describe and evaluate the logical argument from evil
- Describe and evaluate the evidential argument from evil
- Describe the free will defense
- Explain why Leibniz believed that we live in "the best of all possible worlds"
- Explain Ivan Karamazov's comment that he is "returning his ticket"