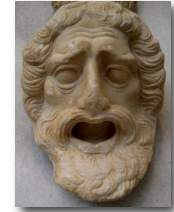


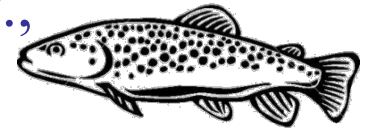
Plato's Euthyphro

Reading a Platonic Dialogue

Dramatic Structure: place, time, characters, plot.



Substantive Issues: the facts of the discipline (e.g., pressure and volume of a gas are inversely related).



Methodological Issues: strategies for discovering and evaluating the facts of a discipline (e.g., experimental findings must be repeatable).



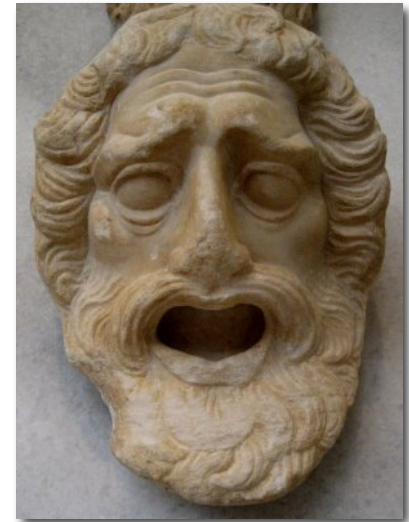
Dramatic Structure

Place: In front of the law court.

Time: Just before the trial of Socrates.

Characters: Socrates and Euthyphro
(a young priest with an inflated sense of his own wisdom)

Plot: The characters try to arrive at a definition of piety.



Substantive Issues



- Religious Knowledge (6b, 9a, 13e)
- Against Anthropomorphism (6a)
- [Theory of Forms (*eidos*) (6d-e)]
- Morality and Religion (10a)

Substantive Issues

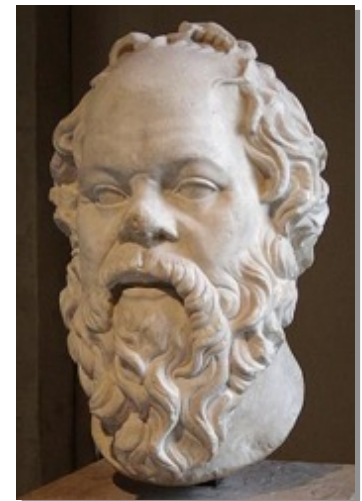
Religious Knowledge (1 of 3)



Does Euthyphro really know what the gods want? (4e-5d)
How might anyone gain this knowledge?



Euthyphro



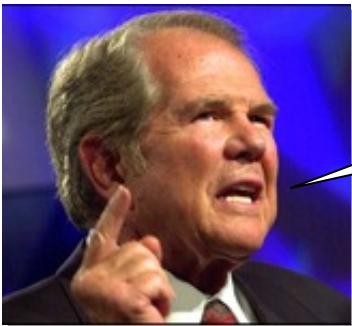
Socrates

Religious Knowledge (2 of 3)



Does Euthyphro really know what the gods want? (4e-5d)
How might anyone gain such knowledge?

“I should be of no use, Socrates, and Euthyphro would not be superior to the majority of men, if I did not have accurate knowledge of all such things” (4e-5a).



Euthyphro

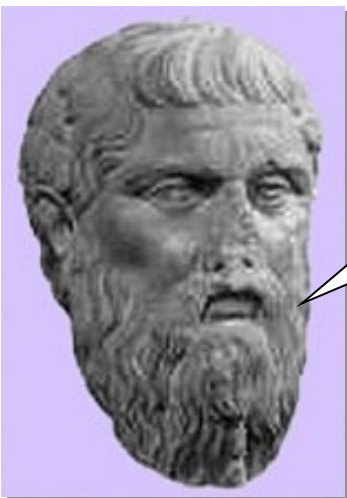


Socrates

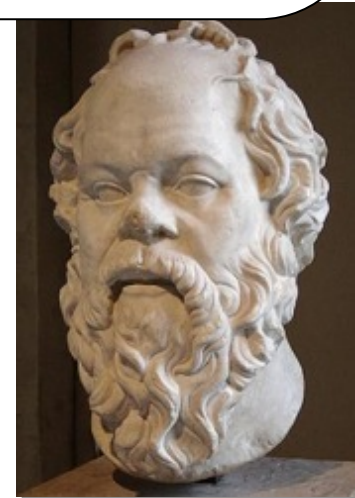
Religious Knowledge (3 of 3)



“Concerning the gods I am unable to know either that they are or that they are not, or what their appearance is like. For many are the things that hinder knowledge: The obscurity of the matter and the shortness of human life.”



Protagoras
c.490-c.420 BCE



Socrates

Against Anthropomorphism



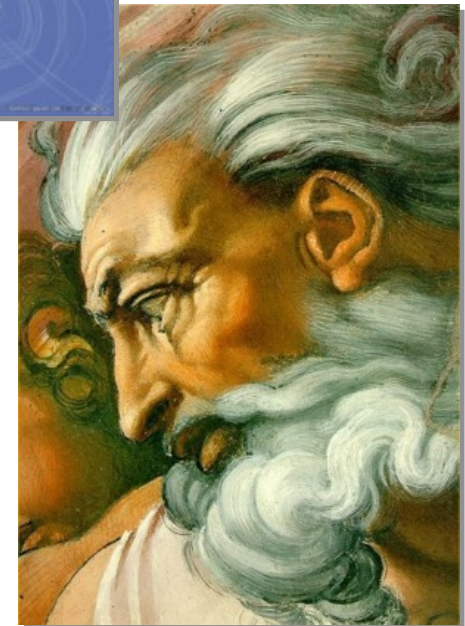
Greek:

anthropos: human being

morphe: shape

“If cattle and horses had hands, horses would draw the forms of the gods like horses, and cattle like cattle.”

— Xenophanes (c.570-c.480 BCE)



Religion and Morality



Socrates: “Is the pious loved by the gods because it is pious, or is it pious because it is loved by the gods?” (10a)

Divine Command
Theory of Morality
The truth of moral
judgments is grounded
in God’s will.

Religion and Morality



Socrates: “Is the pious loved by the gods because it is pious, or is it pious because it is loved by the gods?” (10a)

Why praise Him for what He has done if He would be equally praiseworthy in doing the exact opposite?

~~Divine Command
Theory of Morality
The truth of moral
judgments is grounded
in God's will.~~

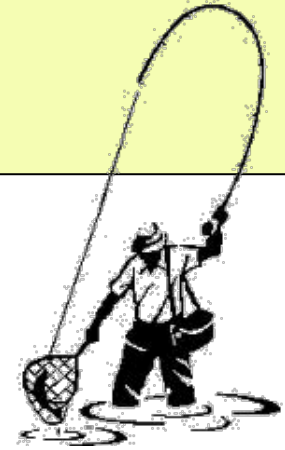
Gottfried Wilhelm von Leibniz
(1646-1716)



Methodological Issue

Methodological Issue

How to define a term.



The candidates:

- (1) Definition by Ostension (5d-e)
- (2) Definition by Subclass (5d-e)
- (3) Definition by Superclass (9e)
- (4) Definition by Genus and Difference (11e-12e)

How to Define a Term



- **Genus and difference:** $S =_{df.}$ a G that is D .
- This must include both **necessary** and **sufficient conditions** of the thing defined

Toaster: an electrical device for heating and browning slices of bread.

Courage: the disposition to act despite one's fears.

Mercury: a heavy metal that is liquid at room temperature.

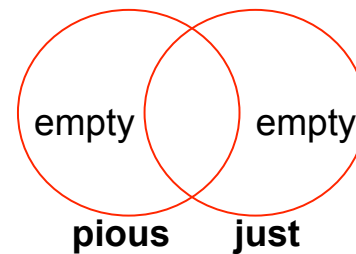
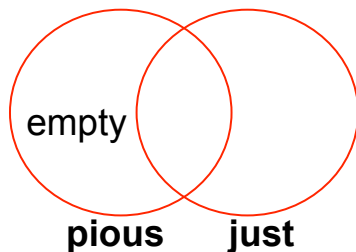
Run: to move at a speed faster than a walk, never having both or all the feet on the ground at the same time.

Dog: a domesticated carnivorous mammal that typically has a long snout, an acute sense of smell, and a barking, howling, or whining voice.

How to Define a Term



- Genus and difference: $S =_{df.}$ a G that is D.
- This must include both **necessary** and **sufficient conditions** of the thing defined



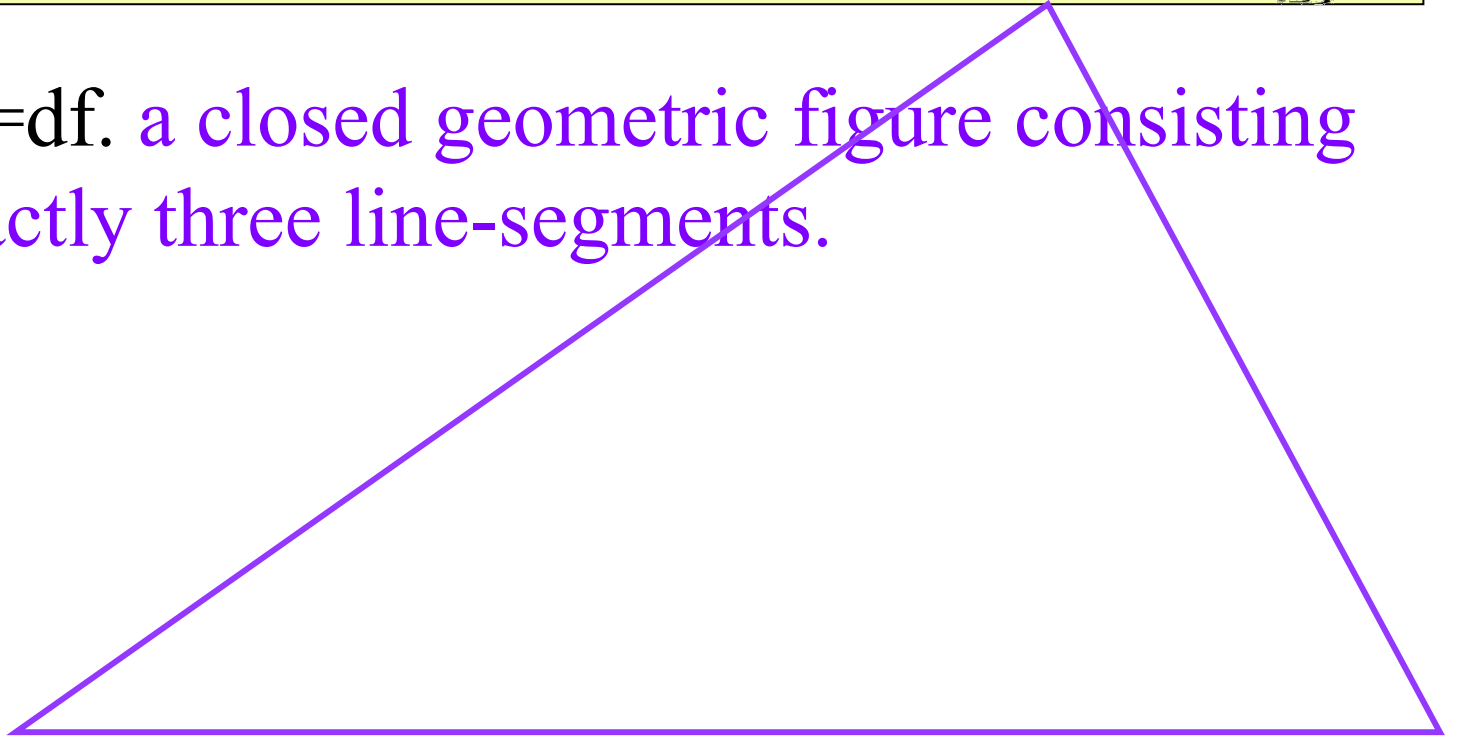
Socrates: “And is then all that is just pious? Or is all that is pious just, but not all that is just pious, but some of it is and some is not?” (11e)

Justice is a necessary
condition of piety.

How to Define a Term



Triangle =df. a closed geometric figure consisting of exactly three line-segments.



How to Define a Term



Triangle =df. a closed geometric figure consisting of exactly three line-segments.

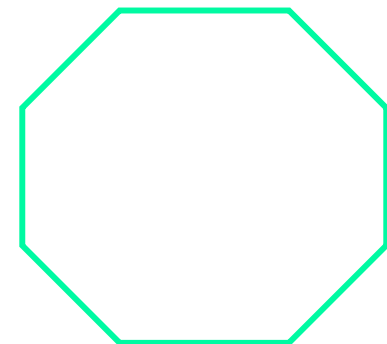
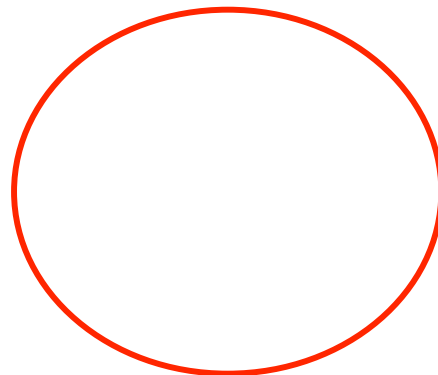
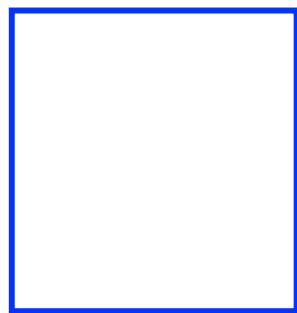
Triangle =df. (1) a closed geometric figure
(2) exactly three line-segments

How to Define a Term



Triangle =df. a closed geometric figure consisting of exactly three line-segments.

Triangle =df. (1) a closed geometric figure
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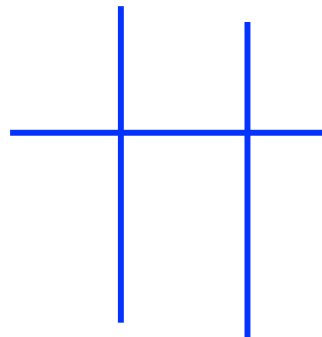


How to Define a Term



Triangle =df. a closed geometric figure consisting of exactly three line-segments.

Triangle =df. (1) a closed geometric figure
(2) exactly three line-segments



How to Define a Term



Triangle =df. a closed geometric figure consisting of exactly three line-segments.

Triangle =df. (1) a closed geometric figure
(2) exactly three line-segments

(1) is a NC of being a triangle.
(2) is a NC of being a triangle.
and
(1 + 2) is a SC of being a triangle.

How **Not** to Define a Term



The failed forms:

(1) Ostensive Definition: **sufficient condition only.**

“The pious is to do what I am doing now.” (5d-e)

(2) Definition by Subclass: **sufficient condition only.**

“The pious is prosecuting the wrongdoer.” (5d-e)

(3) Definition by Superclass (9e): **necessary condition only.**

“The pious is what all the gods love.” (9e)

How **Not** to Define a Term



The failed forms:

(1) Ostensive

“The p

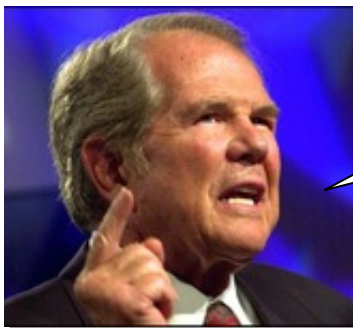
(2) Definitio

“The p

(3) Definitio

“The p

“I say that the pious is to do what I am doing now, to prosecute the wrongdoer, be it about murder or temple robbery or anything else, whether the wrongdoer is your father or your mother or anyone else” (5d-e).



Euthyphro

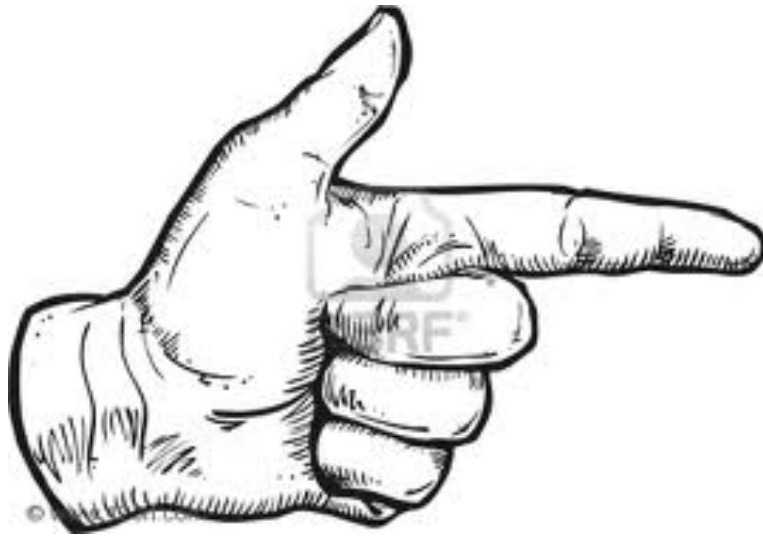
How **Not** to Define a Term



The failed forms:

(1) Ostensive Definition: **sufficient condition only.**

“The pious is to do what I am doing now.” (5d-e)



Mammal =_{df.} *that* thing

How **Not** to Define a Term



The failed forms:

(2) Definition by Subclass: **sufficient condition only.**

“The pious is prosecuting the wrongdoer.” (5d-e)

Fruit =_{df.} apples,
bananas, and so on.



How **Not** to Define a Term

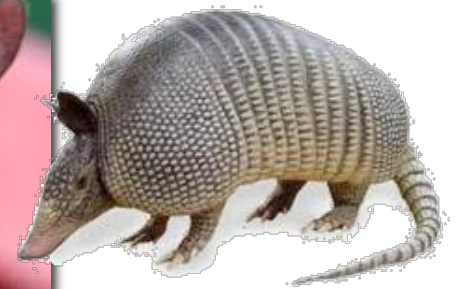


The failed forms:

(3) Definition by Superclass (9e): **necessary condition only.**

“The pious is what all the gods love.” (9e)

Dog =_{df.} a mammal



How **Not** to Define a Term



The failed forms:

(1) Ostensive Definition: **sufficient condition only.**

“The pious is to do what I am doing now.” (5d-e)

(2) Definition by Subclass: **sufficient condition only.**

“The pious is prosecuting the wrongdoer.” (5d-e)

(3) Definition by Superclass (9e): **necessary condition only.**

“The pious is what all the gods love.” (9e)

Piety ... as a G that is D



Last attempts:

- (4) “The godly and pious is the part of the just that is concerned with the care of the gods” (12e)

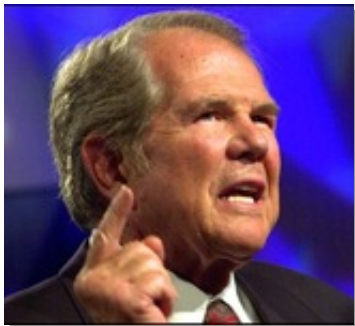
- (5) Piety is “a knowledge of how to sacrifice and pray” (14c)

In the Platonic treatise, *Definitions*, we find this entry:

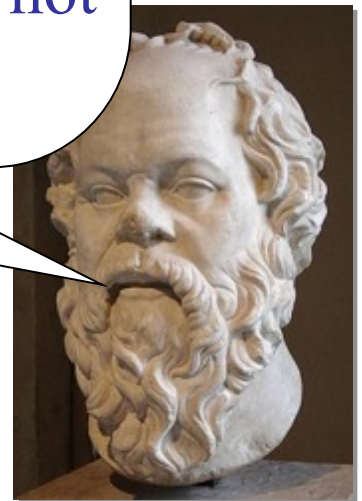
Hosion (piety) =df. service to a god that is agreeable to the god.

Closing Remarks...

“If you had no clear knowledge of piety and impiety you would never have ventured to prosecute your old father for murder on behalf of a servant. For fear of the gods you would have been afraid to take the risk lest you should not be acting rightly, and would have been ashamed before men, but now I know well that you believe you have clear knowledge of piety and impiety. So tell me, my good Euthyphro, and do not hide what you think it is.”



Euthyphro

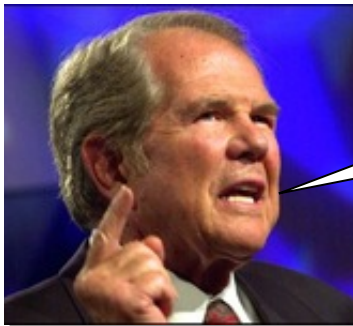


Socrates

Closing Remarks...

“If you had no clear knowledge of piety and impiety you would never have ventured to prosecute your old father for murder on behalf of a servant. For fear of the gods you would have been afraid to take the risk lest you should not be acting rightly, and would have been ashamed before men, but now I know well that you believe in piety and impiety. So

“Some other time, Socrates;
I’m in a hurry.”



Euthyphro



Socrates