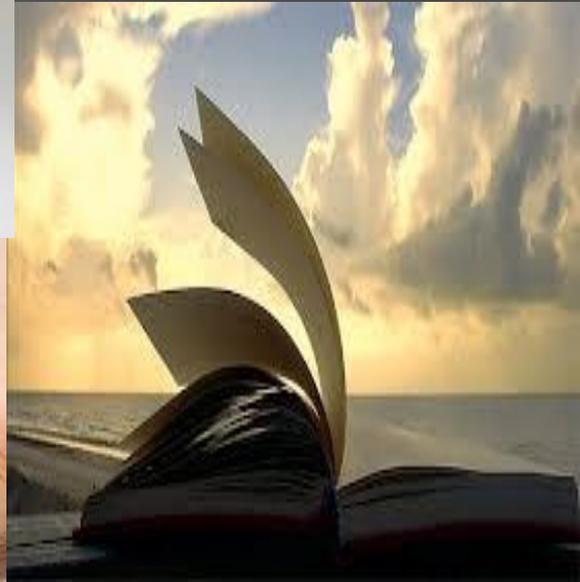
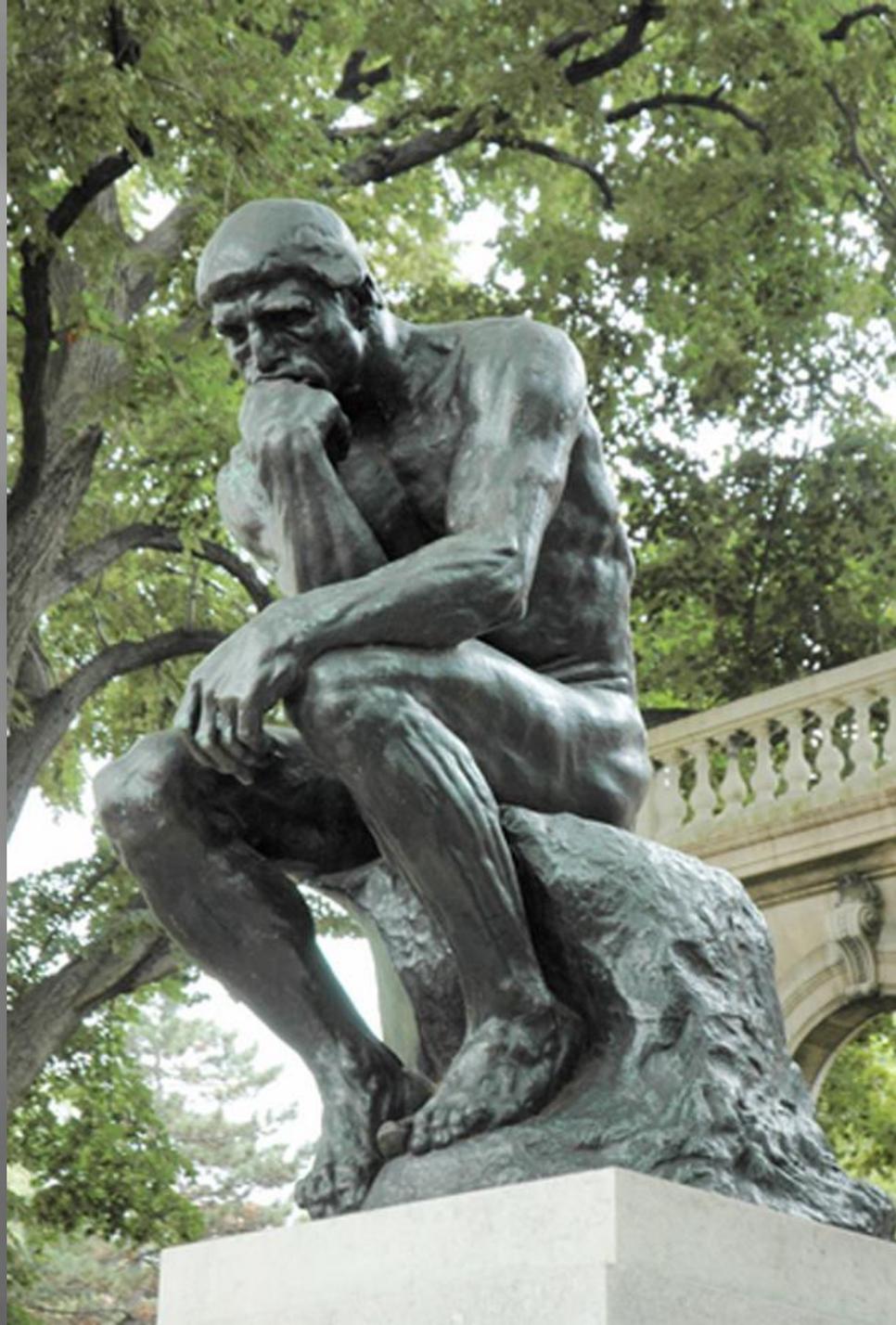


# PHILOSOPHY, ITS MAIN CATEGORIES AND PROBLEMS



# PLAN

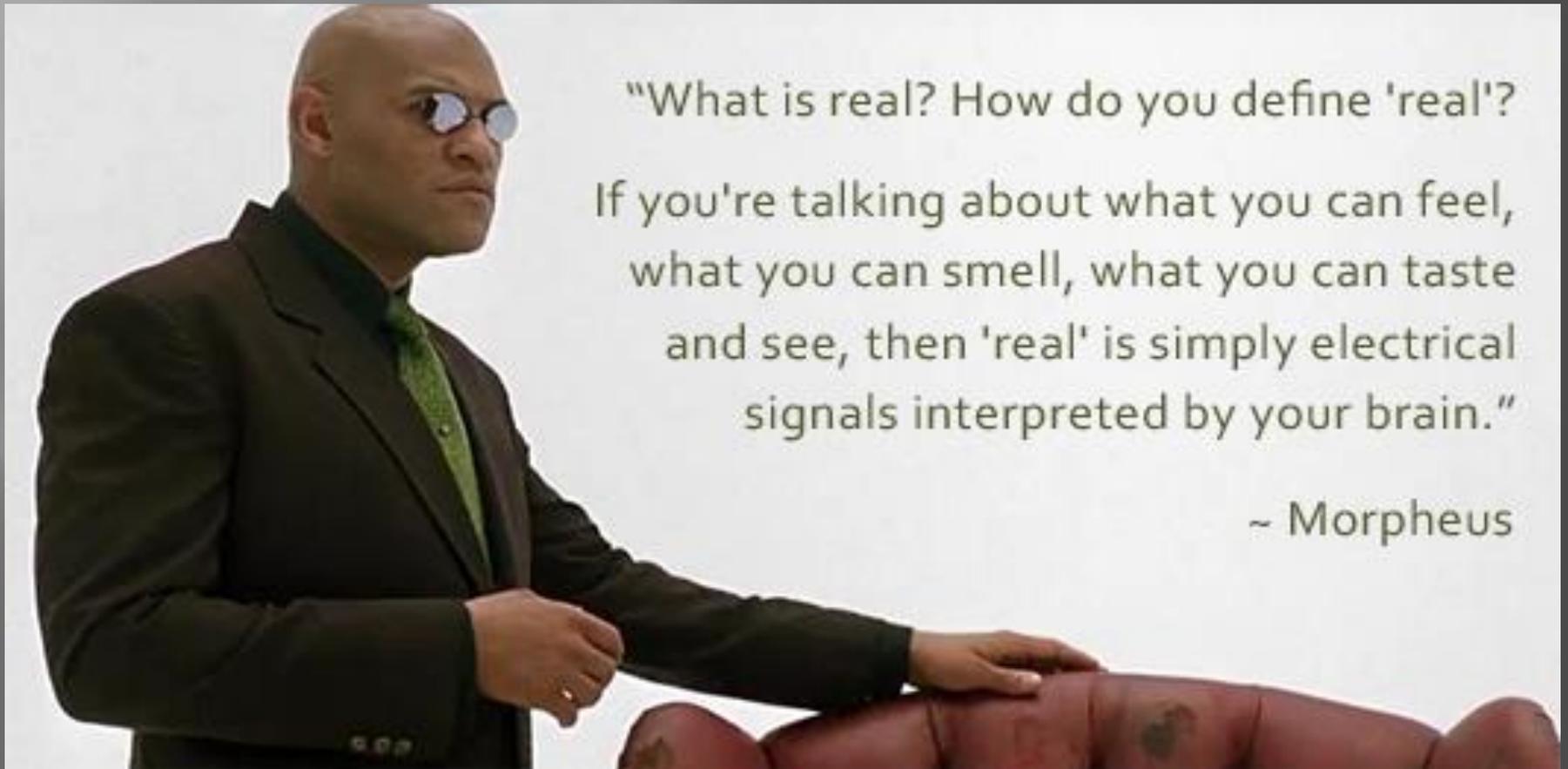
- ▣ The Main problems of Philosophy
- ▣ The Branches of Philosophy
- ▣ Philosophy as a process or activity
- ▣ **HISTORICAL TYPES OF OUTLOOK**





# PHILOSOPHY

- ▣ Philosophy is a manner of thinking about the most basic questions and problems faced by human beings. 1

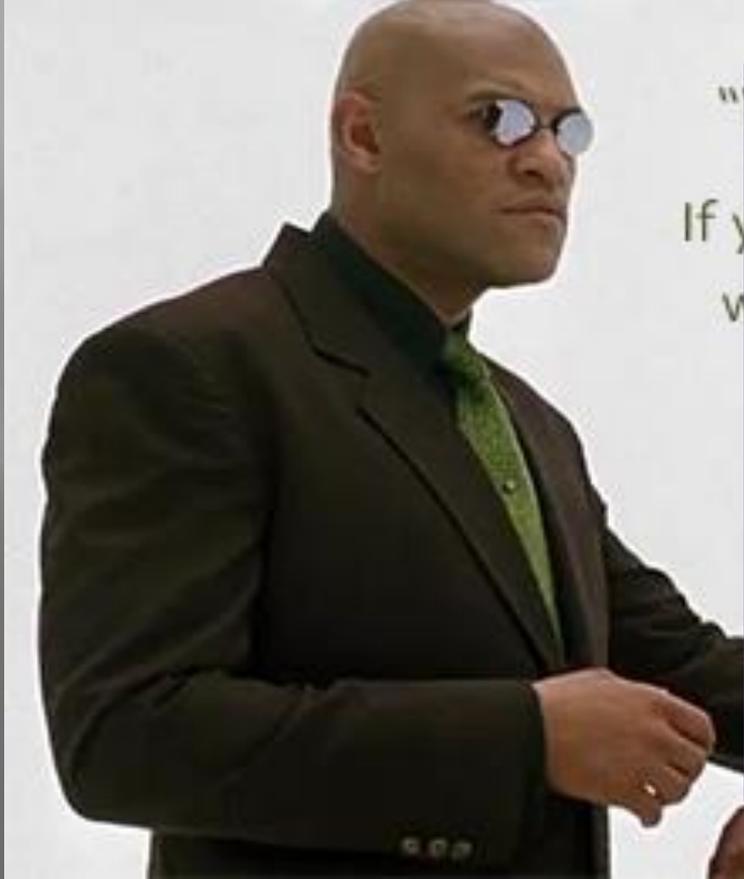


"What is real? How do you define 'real'?  
If you're talking about what you can feel,  
what you can smell, what you can taste  
and see, then 'real' is simply electrical  
signals interpreted by your brain."

~ Morpheus

# *PHILOSOPHY*

- ▣ Philosophy is a manner of thinking about the most basic questions and problems faced by human beings. 1

A man with a shaved head and glasses, wearing a dark suit and a green tie, stands in profile facing right. He is positioned next to a whiteboard. The whiteboard has some faint text visible, including "w", "If y", and "v".

**Philosophy is the critical and rational examination of the most fundamental assumptions that underlie our lives, an activity of concern to men and women of all cultures and races.**

Philosophy is a human endeavor that has changed the course of history. We are all what we are, in part, because of the ideas of philosophers. 2

Philosophers have contributed to our ideas about our science, society and forms of government and to our ideas about deities. The philosophical outlook influenced on a forming of different traditional systems of medicine, justice, communication and education

# The word, *philosophia*, means



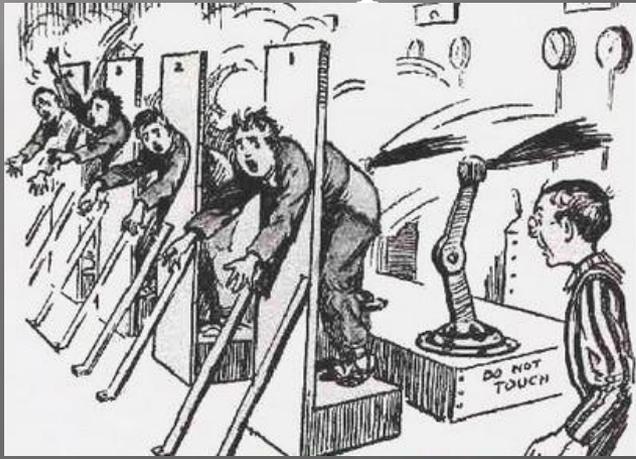
- the love (*philia*)
- of
- wisdom (*sophia*)

Philosophy, which literally means the love of wisdom, begins with wonder about our most basic beliefs. Its goal is to help us achieve autonomy by making us more aware of our own beliefs and encouraging us to reason and think through issues for ourselves.<sup>3</sup>

# Definitions of 'Philosophy'

'Philosophy' is used in a variety of ways. Indeed, dictionaries give multiple entries for 'philosophy'. Roughly, these entries can be divided into 3 groups:

'Philosophy' as  
an academic  
discipline<sup>4</sup>



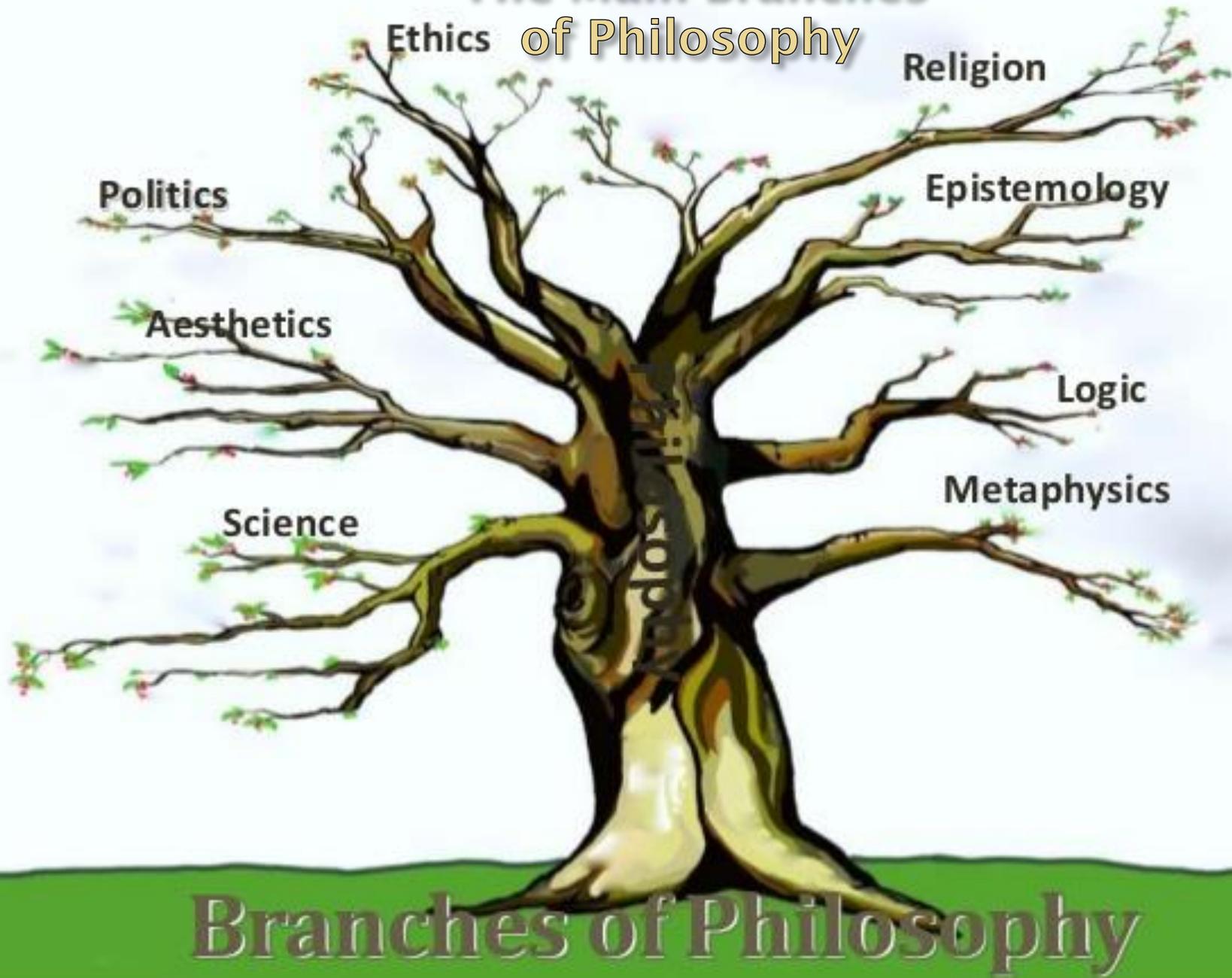
'Philosophy' as a set of  
beliefs or  
worldview<sup>5</sup>



'Philosophy' as a study or  
inquiry<sup>6</sup>



# The Main Branches of Philosophy



**Branches of Philosophy**

- ▣ Philosophy can be divided into five basic branches which address the following questions:

- ▣ 

<b>Metaphysics</b>	<b>Study of Existence</b>	<b>What's out there?</b>
<b>Epistemology</b>	<b>Study of Knowledge</b>	<b>How do I know about it?</b>
<b>Ethics</b>	<b>Study of Action</b>	<b>What should I do?</b>
<b>Politics</b>	<b>Study of Force</b>	<b>What actions are permissible?</b>
<b>Aesthetics</b>	<b>Study of Art</b>	<b>What can life be like?8</b>

# What is Metaphysics?

Metaphysics is the branch of philosophy responsible for the study of existence. It is the foundation of a worldview. It answers the question "What is?" It encompasses everything that exists, as well as the nature of existence itself. It says whether the world is real, or merely an illusion. It is a fundamental view of the world around us.<sup>9</sup>



Handwritten mathematical notes on quantum mechanics, including wave functions, energy levels, and probability distributions.

$$\langle \phi_n | \phi_n \rangle = \langle \phi_n | \int dx |x\rangle \langle x| \phi_n \rangle = \int dx \phi_n^*(x) \phi_n(x) = \int dx \cos^2 \left[ \frac{\pi}{2} (2n-1)x \right]$$

$$\langle \phi_n | \phi_m \rangle = \int dx \phi_n^*(x) \phi_m(x) = \int dx \cos \left[ \frac{\pi}{2} (2n-1)x \right] \cos \left[ \frac{\pi}{2} (2m-1)x \right]$$

$$\langle \phi_n | \phi_m \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \int dx e^{-ikx} e^{ik'x} = 0; k \neq k'$$

$$|\psi(x)| = |\psi_0| e^{-\frac{\alpha}{2} (x-x_0)^2}$$

$$\int dx e^{-\frac{\alpha}{2} (x-x_0)^2} = \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{\alpha}}$$

$$A = \frac{1}{2\alpha} \Rightarrow |\psi_0| = \frac{1}{(2\pi\alpha)^{1/4}}$$

$$V(x) = \frac{1}{2} m \omega^2 (x-x_0)^2 \Rightarrow m\omega^2 = \frac{\hbar^2}{m^2 \lambda^2} \Rightarrow \omega = \frac{\hbar}{2m\lambda}$$

$$E_n = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{\pi^2}{L^2} (2n-1)^2, n=1, 2, \dots; \hat{H} \psi_n(x) = \frac{E_n}{2m} \psi_n(x)$$

$$\hat{H} \psi_n = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \partial_x^2 \psi_n(x) = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{1}{2a^2} \psi_n(x) - \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{1}{4a^2} (x-x_0)^2 \psi_n(x)$$

$$\hat{H} \rightarrow \hat{H} = -\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \partial_x^2 + V(x); \hat{H} \psi_n = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{1}{2a^2} \psi_n = E_n \psi_n$$

$$E_n = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{1}{2a^2} \Rightarrow a = \frac{\hbar}{\sqrt{2mE_n}}$$

$$\langle \hat{p}, \hat{x} \rangle = \frac{\hbar}{i}; \hat{p} = \frac{\hbar}{i} \partial_x / \hat{H} = \frac{\hbar^2}{2m} + \frac{1}{2} m \omega^2 \hat{x}^2$$

$$1. a + ib = (a+ib)(a-ib); a, b \in \mathbb{R}; 2. (a\hat{p} + ib\hat{x})(a\hat{p} - ib\hat{x}), a, b \in \mathbb{R}$$

$$= a^2 \hat{p}^2 + iba\hat{p}\hat{x} - iab\hat{p}\hat{x} + b^2 \hat{x}^2 = a^2 \hat{p}^2 + b^2 \hat{x}^2 - ba\hat{x}\hat{p}$$

$$\hat{H} = (a\hat{p} + ib\hat{x})(a\hat{p} - ib\hat{x}) = ba\hat{x}\hat{p}; a^2 = \frac{1}{2m}; b^2 = \frac{1}{2} m \omega^2$$

$$Def: C^+ = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\hbar\omega}} (a\hat{p} + ib\hat{x}); C^- = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\hbar\omega}} (a\hat{p} - ib\hat{x}) \Rightarrow \hat{H} = \hbar\omega C^+ C^-$$

$$D(\omega = \frac{1}{2} \omega_0) \Rightarrow C^+ \rightarrow C^+ + \frac{1}{2} \omega_0 C^-$$

$$A \rightarrow \omega \bar{A} \omega^{-1} + \frac{1}{2} \omega_0$$

...ll you into their storm.  
...to your peace.

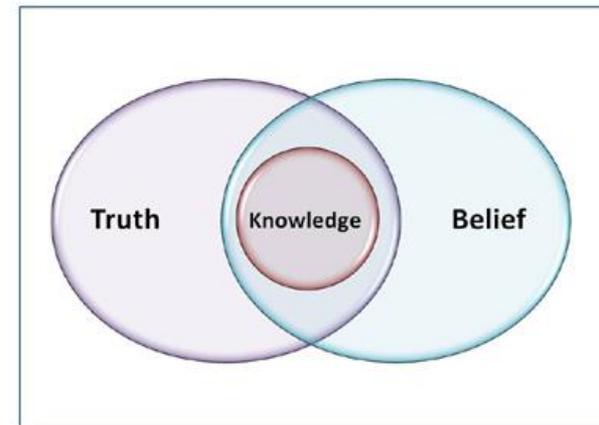


# What is Epistemology?

Epistemology is the study of our method of acquiring knowledge. It answers the question, "How do we know?" It encompasses the nature of concepts, the constructing of concepts, the validity of the senses, logical reasoning, as well as thoughts, ideas, memories, emotions, and all things mental. It is concerned with how our minds are related to reality, and whether these relationships are valid or invalid.<sup>10</sup>



*"You say that life is suffering, but isn't it also complaining?"*



# What is Ethics?

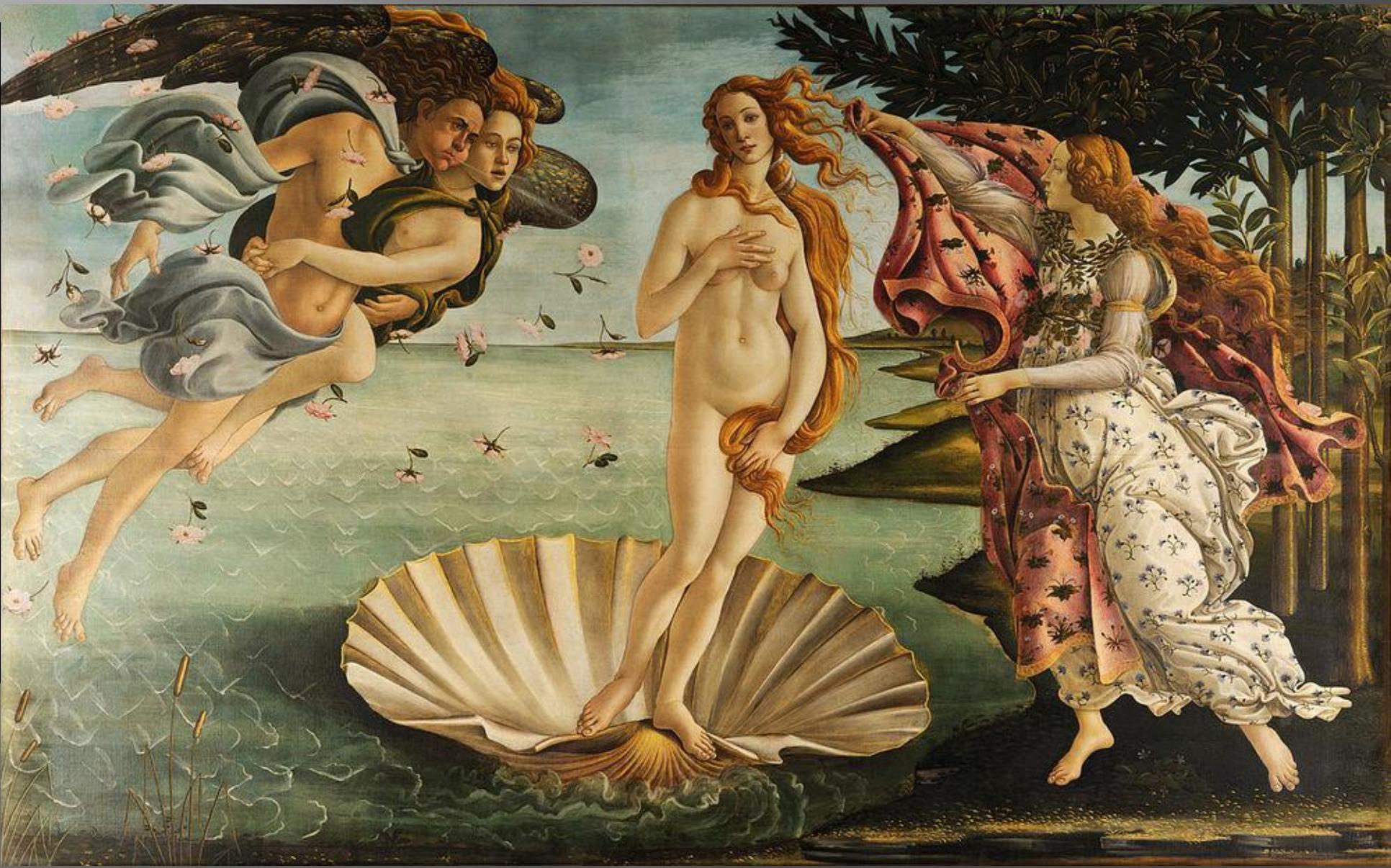
**NON -  
Ethical  
Behavior**



**Ethical Behavior**

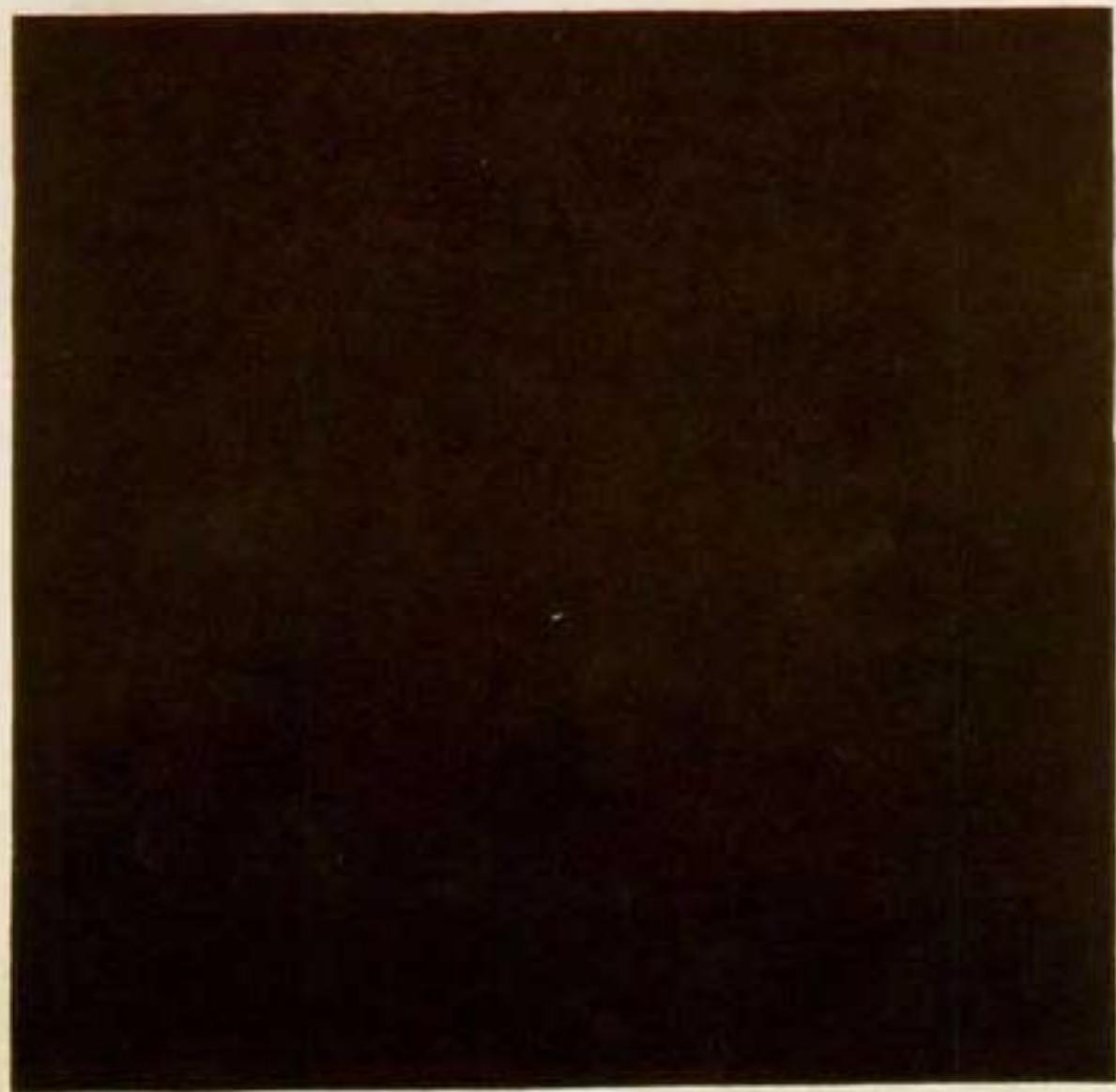


# What is Aesthetics?









# There are questions about art:

- What is “art”?
- Can we distinguish between
  - (1) art & non-art,
  - (2) authentic art & unauthentic art,
  - (3) good & bad art,
  - (4) fine & useful (applied) art? If so, how? If not, why not?
- What are the standards of aesthetic judgement?
- What is the purpose of art?
- How does art “mean”? *Does art “mean”?*

# What is Politics?

Politics is ethics applied to a group of people.

Politics tells you how a society must be set up and how one should act within a society.



# Politics



# The smaller branches

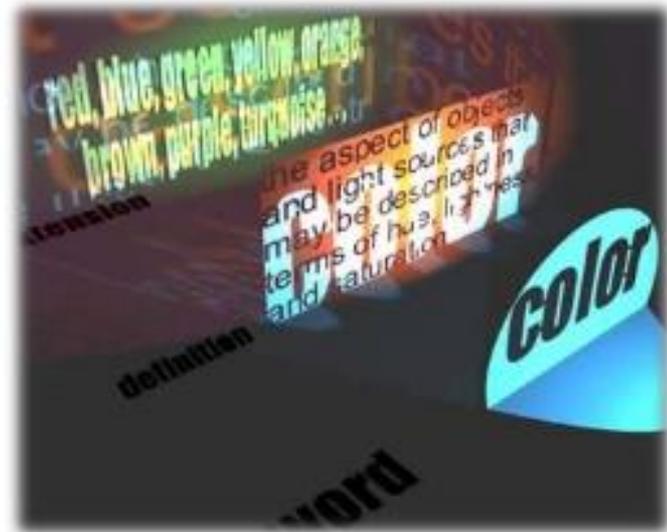
Philosophy also includes several fields usually referred to as "the philosophy of . . . ," including the philosophy of science, the philosophy of art, and the philosophical meaning of life. These fields of philosophy examine the basic assumptions underlying particular areas of human knowledge or activity.



# Philosophy of language

Philosophy of language is concerned with 4 central problems:

- \* The nature of meaning,
- \* Language use,
- \* Language cognition,
- \* Relationship between language and reality.





Emotions

Gender  
relations

Social  
cognition

Personal  
identity

Philosophical anthropology



# *Reading philosophy*

- ▣ Reading philosophy is not like reading other sorts of texts.
  - It is not simply a matter of memorizing facts.
  - It involves being able to *understand* and *evaluate claims* (views, positions, theories, analyses, etc.).
  - That is, it is a matter of understanding the claims philosophers are arguing for and the *reasons* they give for them.

# *Philosophical lingo*

- ▣ Grasping philosophical concepts is of the utmost importance to understanding what philosophers are claiming (and why).
- ▣ So, you should make sure to identify all terms or phrases that you do not understand.
  - Look them up in the dictionary (or better yet, in a philosophical dictionary).
  - If this fails, ask me. 😊

# Philosophy as a process or activity

philosophy is a two-sided way of thinking  
about reality, value, & knowledge.

Constructive  
Philosophy

Critical  
Philosophy



# The Two Types (or Sides) of Philosophical Thinking

## ❖ Constructive Philosophy

- the construction of *rationally defensible answers* to philosophical questions concerning the nature of reality, the nature of value, & the nature of knowledge
- answering questions

## ❖ Critical Philosophy

- the *analysis, clarification, & evaluation* of answers that are given to philosophical questions concerning the nature of reality, the nature of value, & the nature of knowledge
- questioning answers

# The overall process of philosophical thinking proceeds in something like the following way:

- Someone raises a philosophical question.
- Someone (the questioner or someone else) constructs an answer to the question, trying to back the answer up with good reasons so as to make it as *rationally defensible* as possible (constructive philosophy).
- Someone (the constructor or someone else) analyzes, clarifies, & evaluates the answer & judges the degree to which the answer is satisfactory (critical philosophy).

# Ideally (and theoretically),

❖ this back-and-forth (“dialectical”) process of construction-criticism-reconstruction-criticism-reconstruction goes on until a fully satisfactory answer to the original question is developed.

- ❖ It is, of course, possible that that ideal goal will never be reached.
- ❖ However, true philosophers never give up their pursuit of the wisdom that they love.

# The mythological world picture

The term myth is derived from the Greek “mythos”, which means “a spoken story”, “speech”, or simply “the plot”.

The stories of the gods had been handed down from generation to generation for centuries.

A myth is a story about the gods which sets out to explain why life is as it is.<sup>16</sup>

People also carried out religious ceremonies related to the myths.

# Truth and Fiction in myths

Truth = Alêtheia in Greek

A + lêthê = not + forget

Truth = not forgetting

How do people not forget something?

They talk/retail about it.  
They tell stories. In short, they spread myths.

Logos = in Greek- "I say"

Logos = account, reason, speech, opinion

Truth = opinion based on reason

How do people be reasonable?

They discuss in dialogs form and make conclusion .