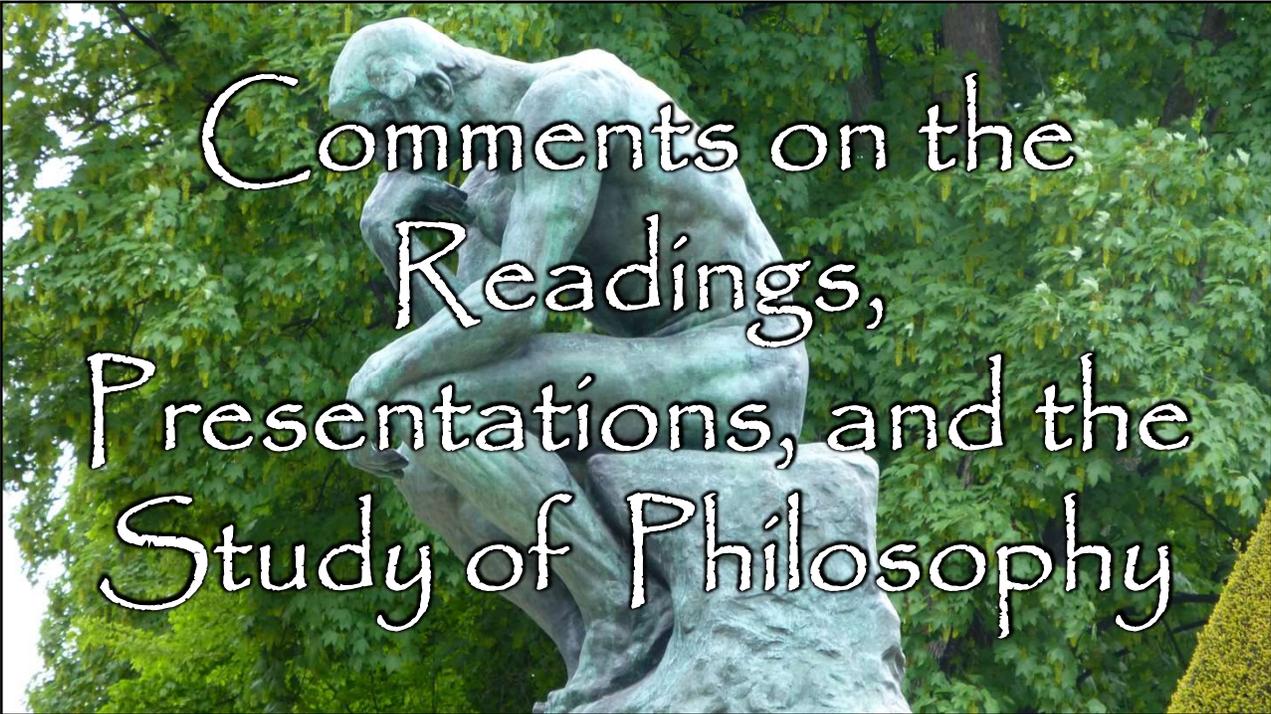


PH 501  
CLASSICAL  
PHILOSOPHY

PH 825  
SYSTEMATIC  
PHILOSOPHY

SOME  
PRELIMINARY  
MATTERS



Comments on the  
Readings,  
Presentations, and the  
Study of Philosophy

- ❖ *I want to warn you that some of you may want to switch to the Philosophy degree before this class is over!*
- ❖ *Regarding the readings, there likely will come a place in the readings where you won't understand a word you're reading. When this happens, just push through. Eventually, you'll get back to something that makes sense.*
- ❖ *You won't have time this week to marinate in what you're hearing in the presentations. As you proceed through the course readings, reflect back on the week and, if possible, revisit some of the lectures.*

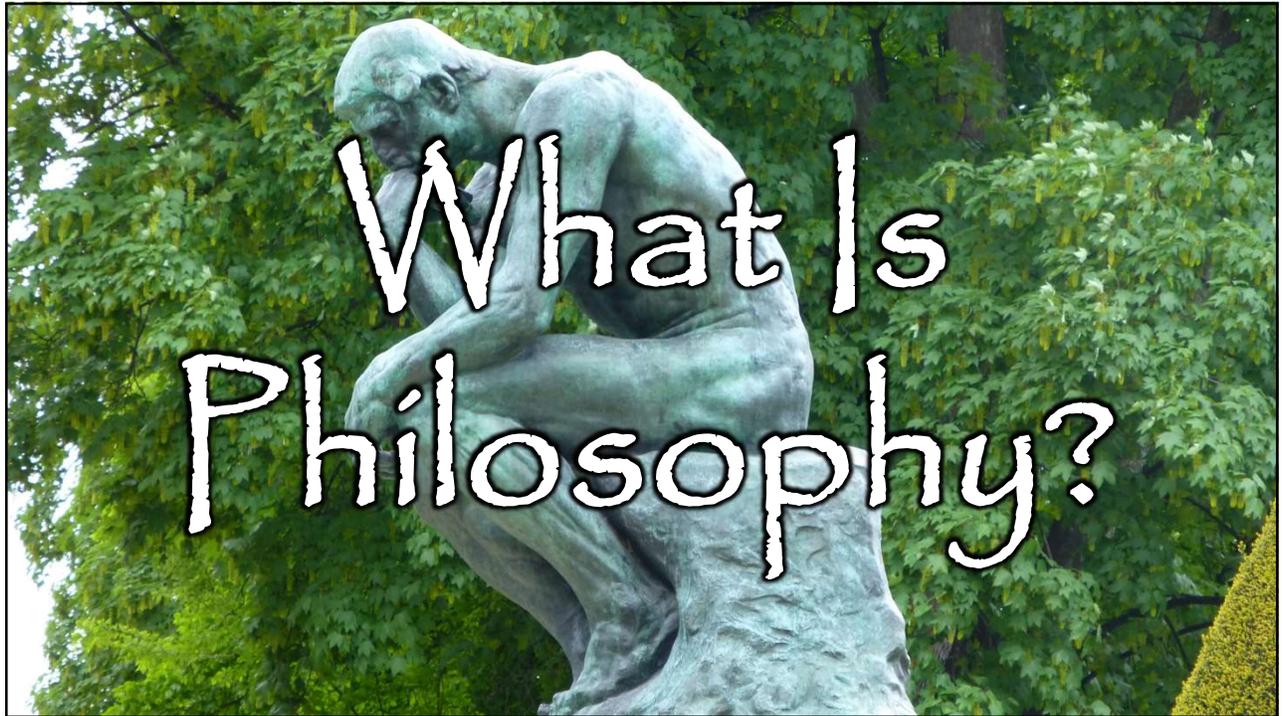
## *Riddles*

## The Door that Leads to Life

*You're in a room with only two doors to exit. One door lead to life and the other door leads to death. You want to exit the door that leads to life. There is a guard at each door. One guard always tells the truth and the other guard always tells a lie. You don't know which door is which. You don't know which guard is which. You don't know which guard is in front of which door. What is the one question you can ask one guard that will tell you which door is the door that leads to life?*

## The Nobles and Savages

*You are drifting on the ocean toward a series of islands. Some islands are inhabited by Nobles and other by Savages. Nobles always tell the truth and savages always tell a lie. As you drift toward an island you see a native standing on the beach. You yell out and ask him if he is a Noble or a Savage. As he yells his answer back to you, the sound of crashing white caps drown out his answer and you can't hear it. As you drift toward a second island you see a native standing on the beach and yell out and ask if he is a Noble. He answers, "The first native said he was a Noble. I am a Noble." As you drift toward a third island you see a native standing on the beach and yell out and ask if he is a Noble. He answers, "The other two natives are both Savages. I am a Noble." From this information, can you ascertain which natives are Noble and which are Savages?*



- ❖ *puzzlement*
- ❖ *suspicion*
- ❖ *hostility*

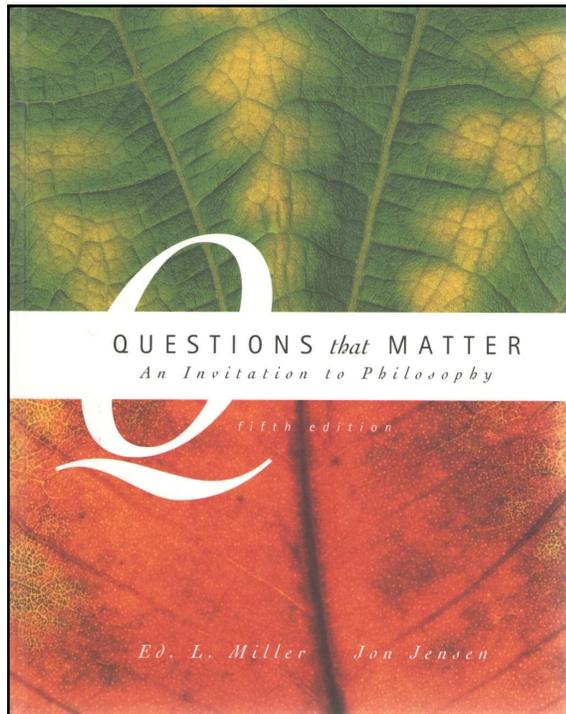
# The Term

φίλος (philos); φιλέω (phileo)  
beloved, friend; I love

+

σοφία (sophia)  
skill in arts or crafts or in matters of  
common life; sound judgment,  
intelligence, practical wisdom

- φιλοσοφῶ (philosophēo) - discuss, investigate, study
- φιλόσοφος (philosophos) - lover of wisdom; used of all men of education and learning
- φιλόσοφια (philosophia) - used only once in the NT (Col. 2:8), in a bad sense



## Philosophy

*the attempt to think rationally and critically about the most important questions*

- ✓ **rationally** = reasonableness; opposed to undue emotions
- ✓ **critically** = subjecting to legitimate critique; opposed to gullibility

## How do philosophy and religion compare and contrast?

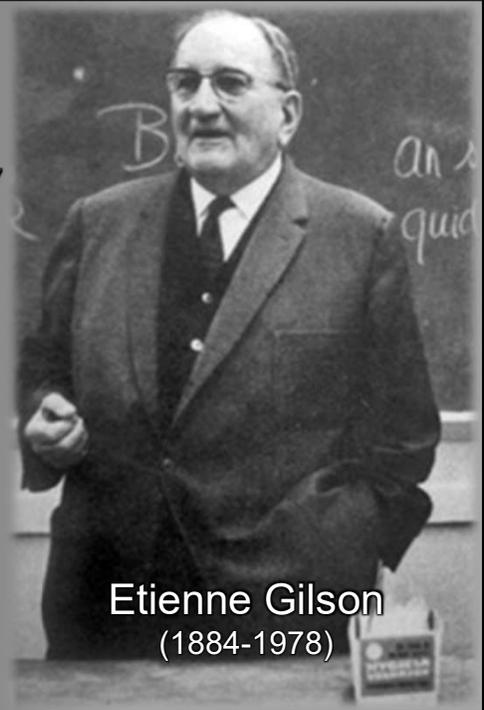
- ✓ *Both can deal with the same subjects.*
- ✓ *Both utilize the tools of language and logic.*

## How do philosophy and religion compare and contrast?

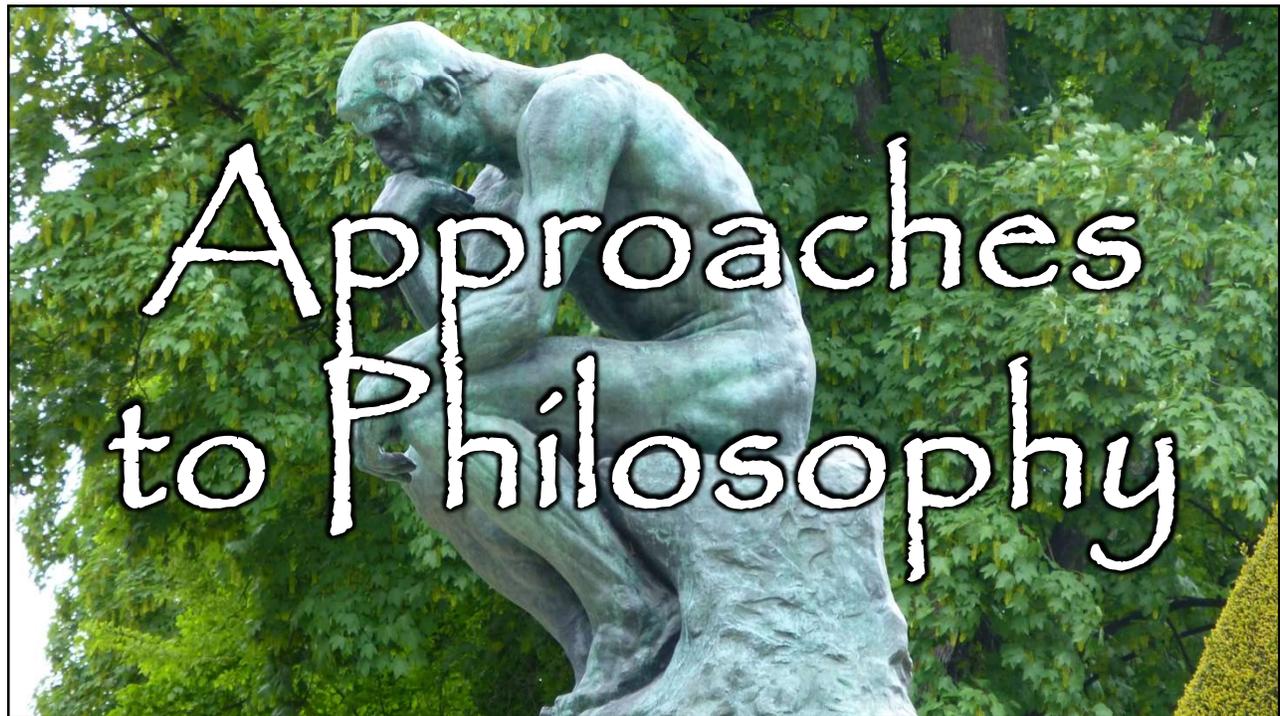
- ✓ *Philosophy as such recognizes no authority except reason itself.*
- ✓ *Religion often, though not always, recognizes additional authority such as a sacred book. (= reason vs. revelation)*

*"Theology is the science of those things which are received by faith from divine revelation, and philosophy is the knowledge of those things which flow from the principles of natural reason. Since their common source is God, the creator of both reason and revelation, these two science are bound ultimately to agree."*

[Etienne Gilson, *The Unity of Philosophical Experience: A Survey Showing the Unity of Medieval, Cartesian, and Modern Philosophy* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1937), 62]



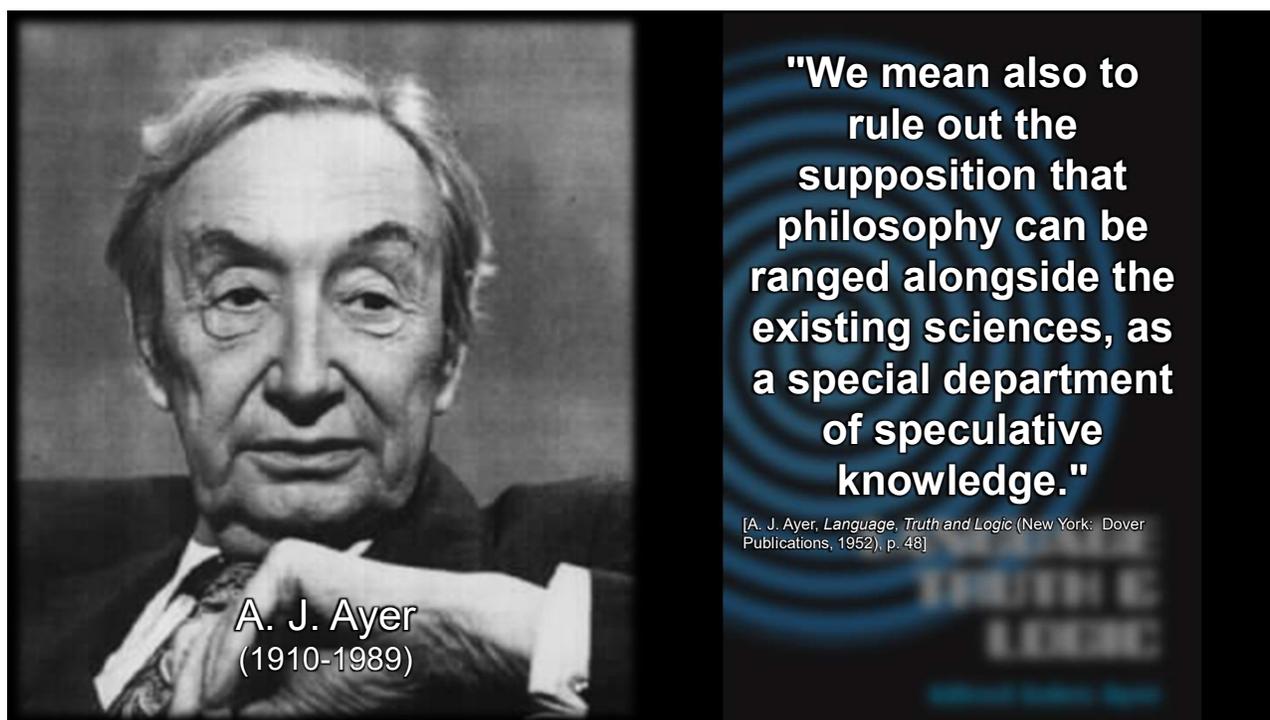
Etienne Gilson  
(1884-1978)

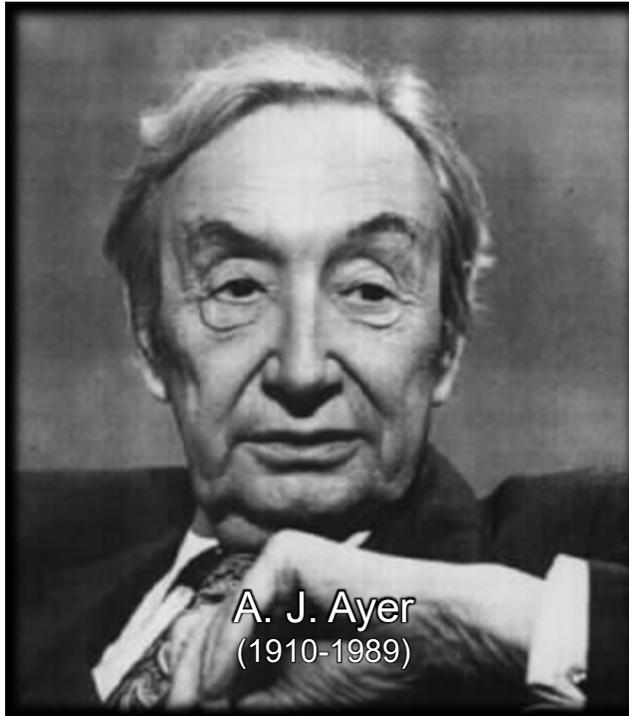


- ∞ Analytic Philosophy ∞
- ∞ Existential Philosophy ∞
- ∞ Continental Philosophy ∞
- ∞ Classical Philosophy ∞

*Analytic philosophy is concerned primarily with the analysis of concepts and terms and the clarification of language.*

*In its most extreme forms, it denies that philosophy has its own body of knowledge*





A. J. Ayer  
(1910-1989)

"There is no field of experience which cannot, in principle, be brought under some form of scientific law, and no type of speculative knowledge about the world which it is, in principle, beyond the power of science to give."

[Ayer, *Language*, p. 48]

## According to Ayer

*Categories of ...  
logic of ...  
glossary of ...  
scope of ...  
relation to other disciplines*

**PHYSICS  
CHEMISTRY  
BIOLOGY**

## According to Ayer

### PHILOSOPHY

*Categories of ...  
logic of ...  
glossary of ...  
scope of ...  
relation to other disciplines*

SECOND-ORDER DISCIPLINE

### NATURAL SCIENCES

PHYSICS  
CHEMISTRY  
BIOLOGY

FIRST-ORDER DISCIPLINES

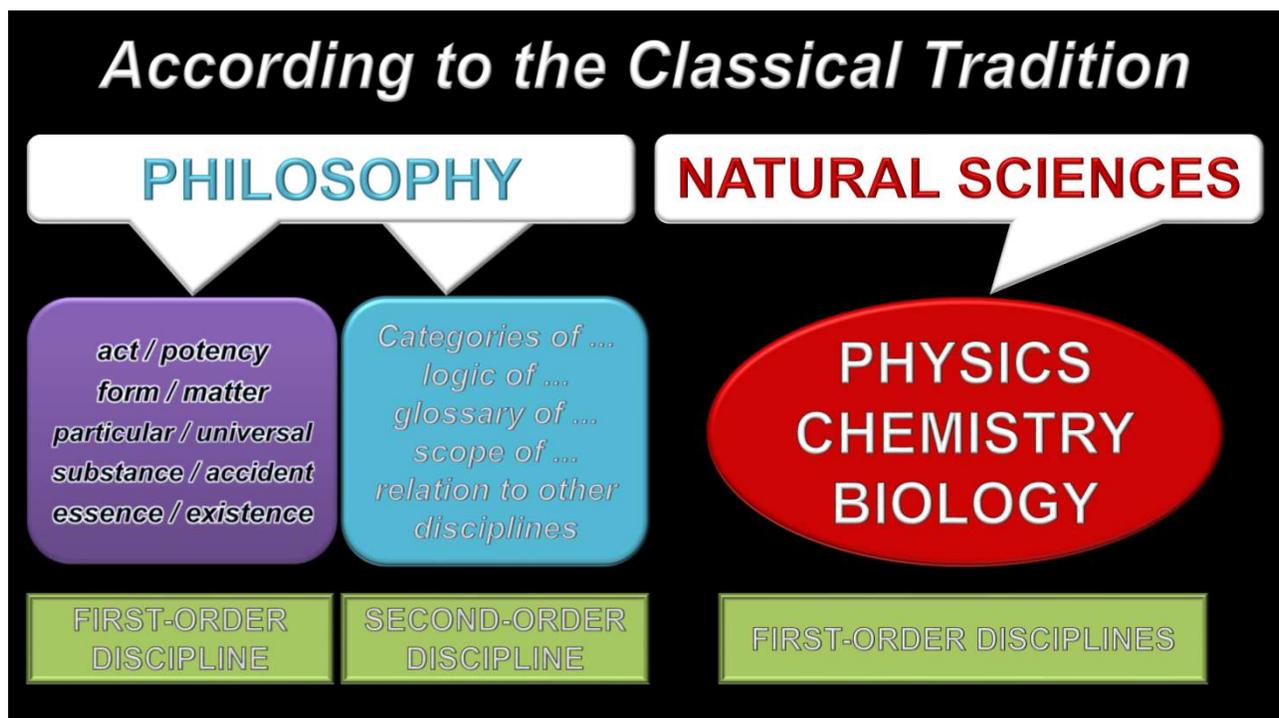
∞ Analytic Philosophy ∞

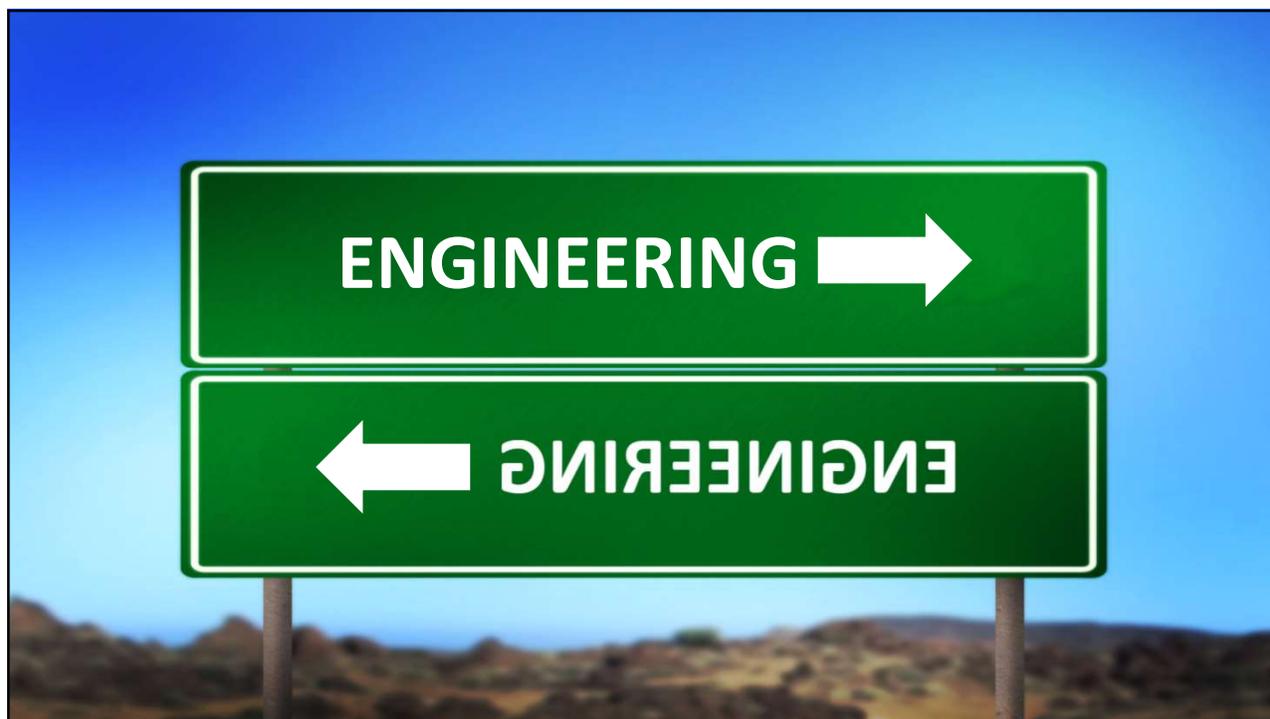
∞ Classical Philosophy ∞

***Classical philosophy is concerned with the analysis of concepts and terms and the clarification of language, but it also seeks to synthesize its findings into a comprehensive view of all reality.***

***Classical philosophy goes beyond the supposition that the task of the philosopher is to merely clarify the language of other disciplines. It maintains that philosophy has its own body of knowledge and can discover truths about reality.***

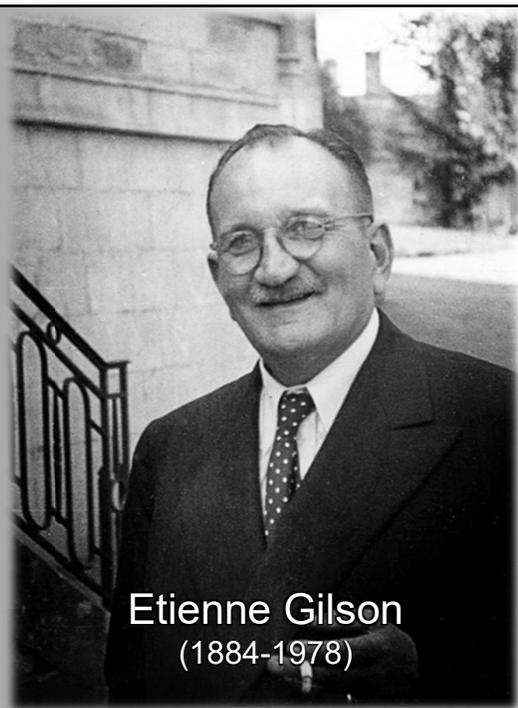
***Classical philosophy most often works philosophical questions back to basic questions of metaphysics. It understands metaphysical issues in the classical categories of Plato and Aristotle, (e.g., form/matter; act/potency; substance/accidents).***





***"A philosopher talks about things, while a professor of philosophy talks about philosophy."***

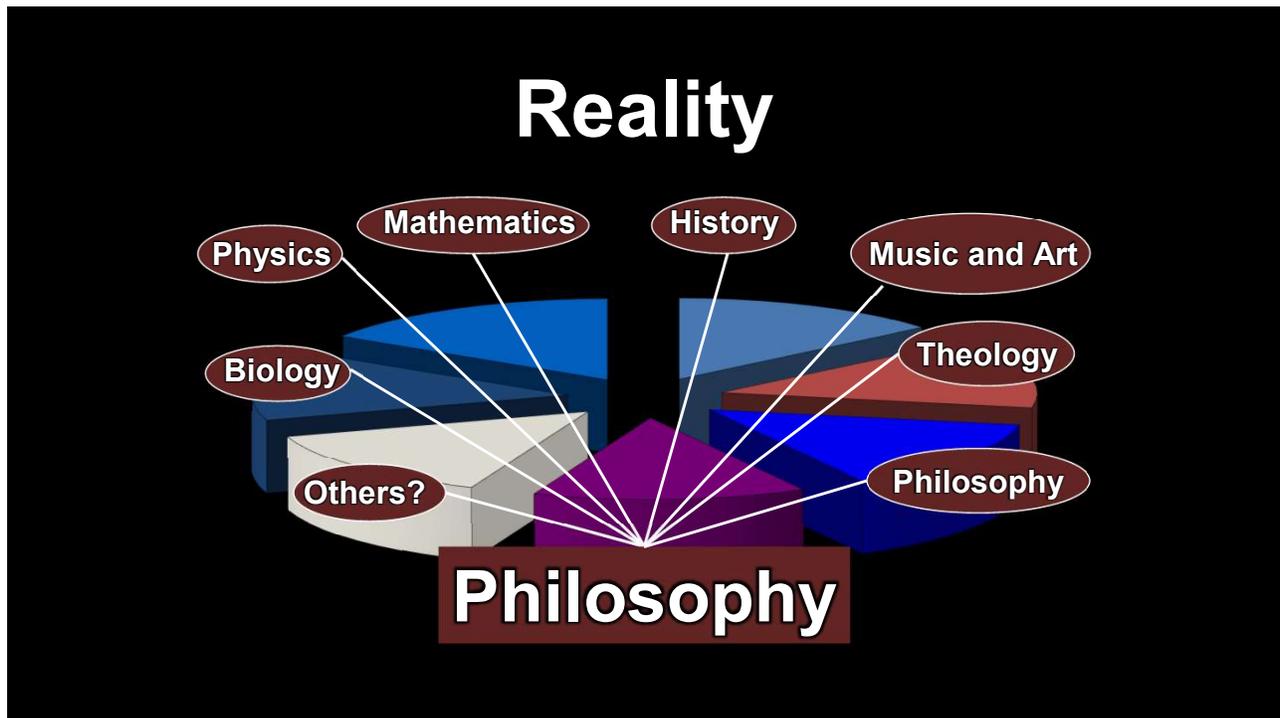
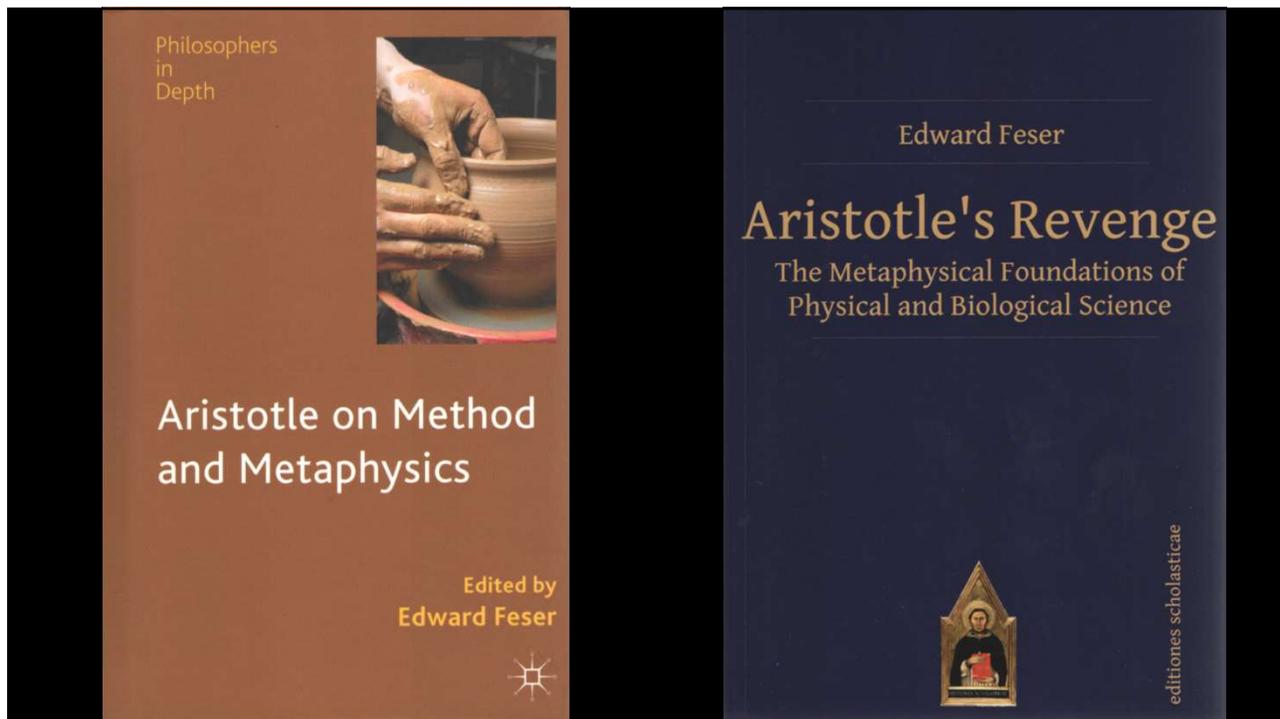
*(Methodical Realism, p. 129)*



**Etienne Gilson**  
(1884-1978)

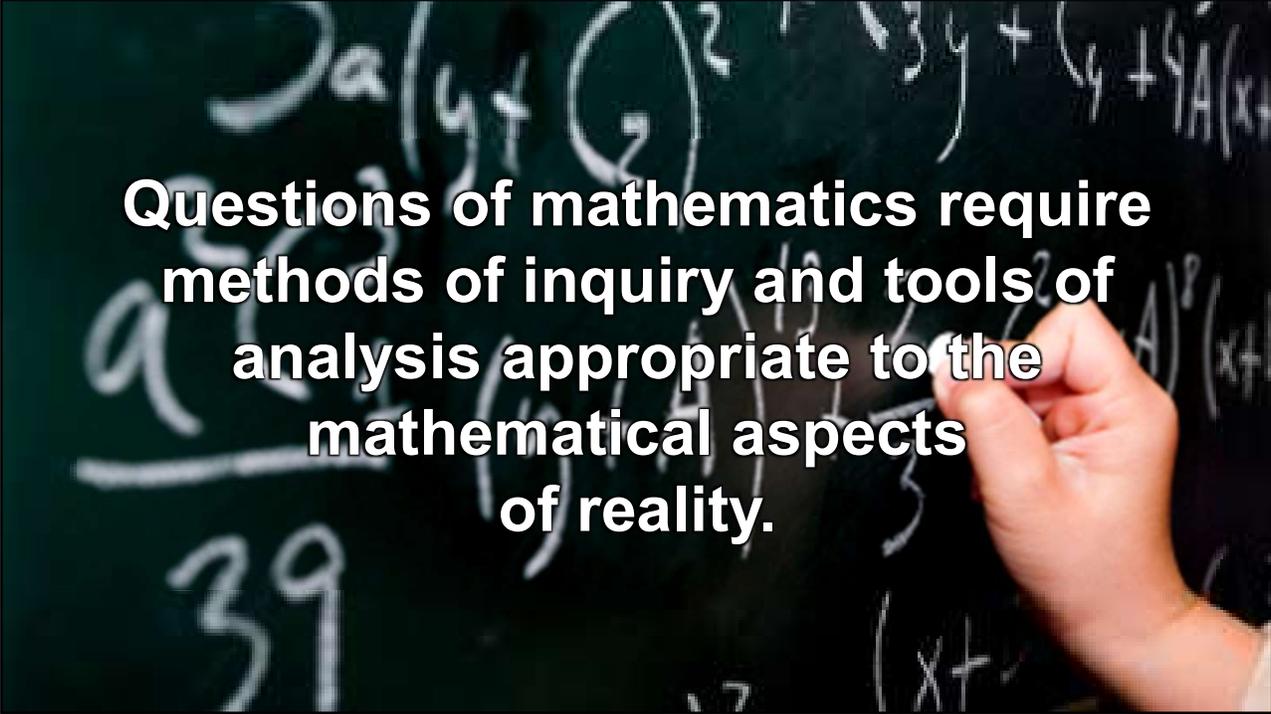
***Classical philosophy has fallen into  
much disrepute in modern and  
contemporary philosophy.  
Although ...***



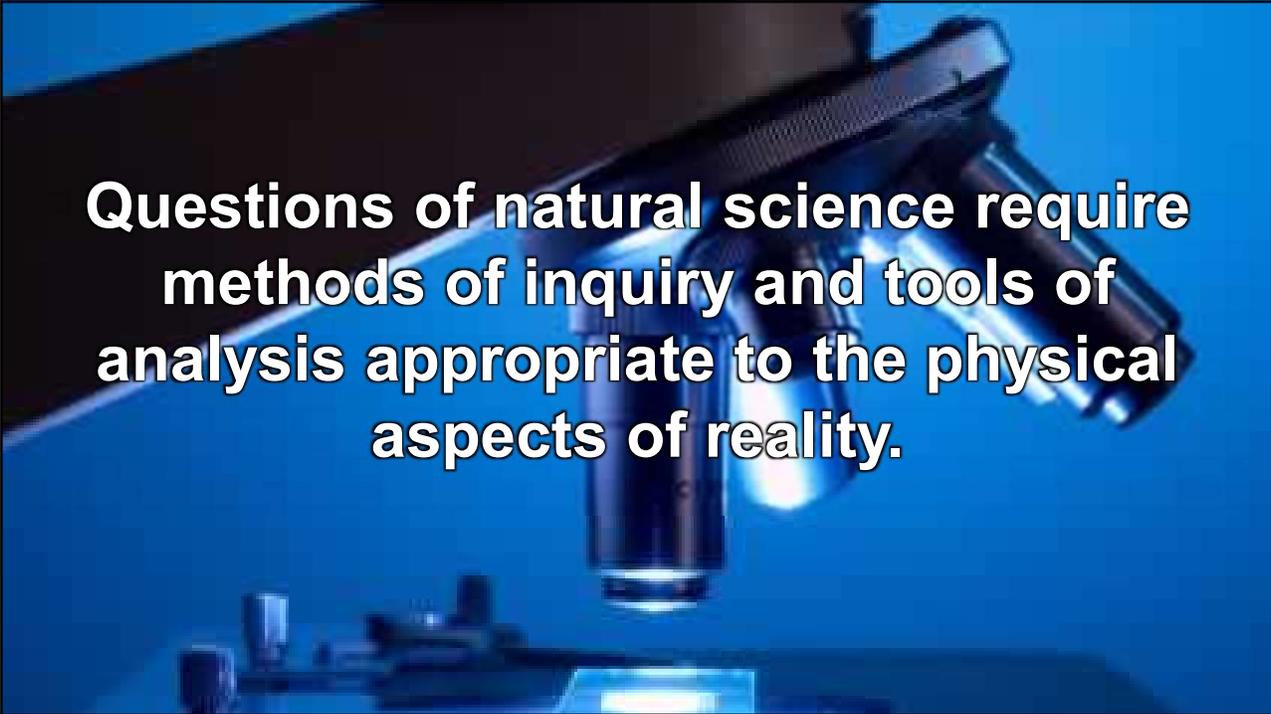




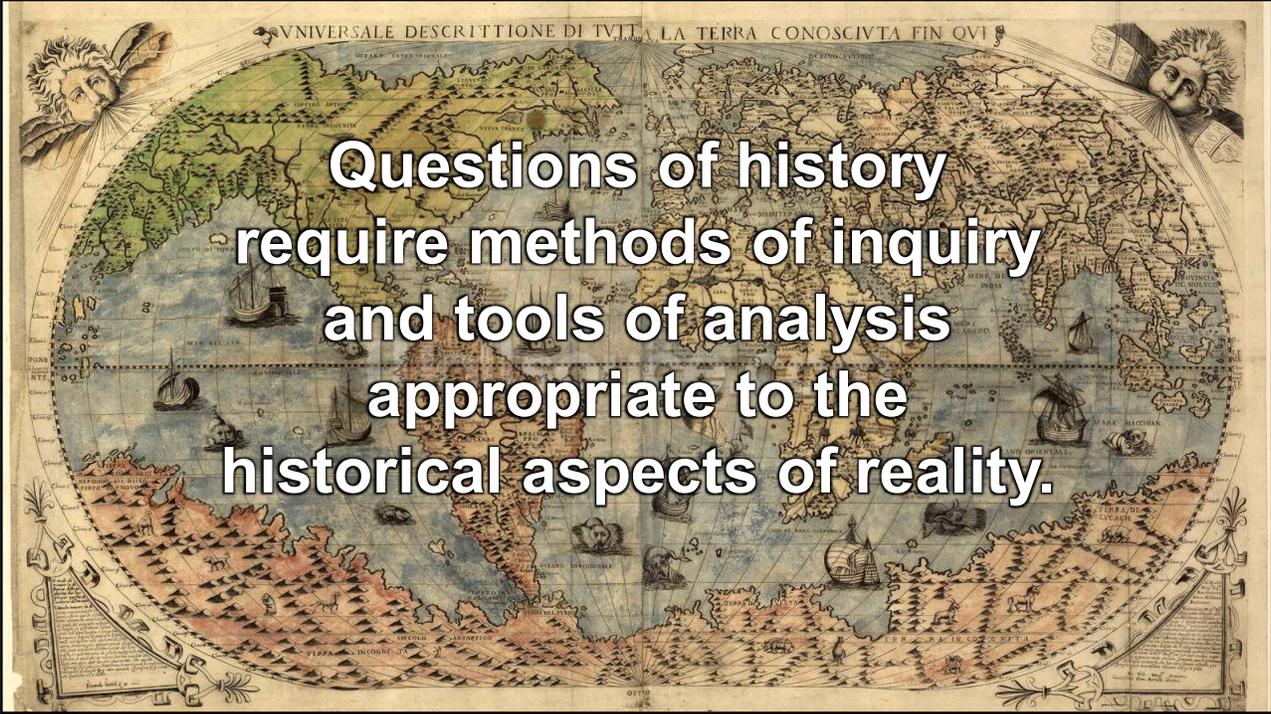
**Different aspects of reality require different methods of inquiry and tools of analysis.**



**Questions of mathematics require methods of inquiry and tools of analysis appropriate to the mathematical aspects of reality.**



**Questions of natural science require methods of inquiry and tools of analysis appropriate to the physical aspects of reality.**



**Questions of history require methods of inquiry and tools of analysis appropriate to the historical aspects of reality.**

# ∞ Two Philosophical Mistakes ∞

## The Lesser

*taking the methods of inquiry and tools of analysis  
for one aspect of reality and illicitly using them  
for another aspect of reality*



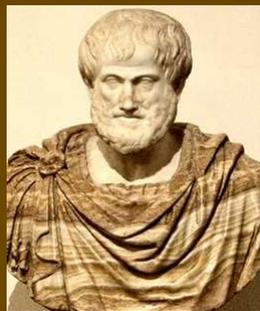
# ∞ Two Philosophical Mistakes ∞

## The Lesser

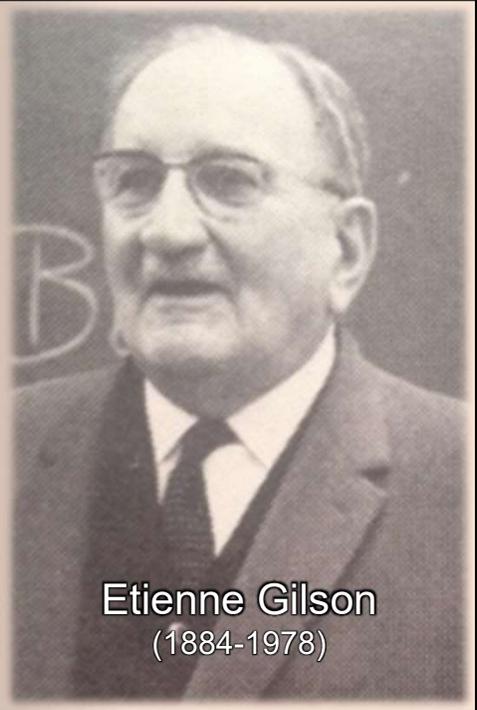
*taking the methods of inquiry and tools of analysis  
for one aspect of reality and illicitly using them  
for another aspect of reality*

## The Greater

*taking the methods of inquiry and tools of analysis  
for one aspect of reality and illicitly using  
for reality as a whole*

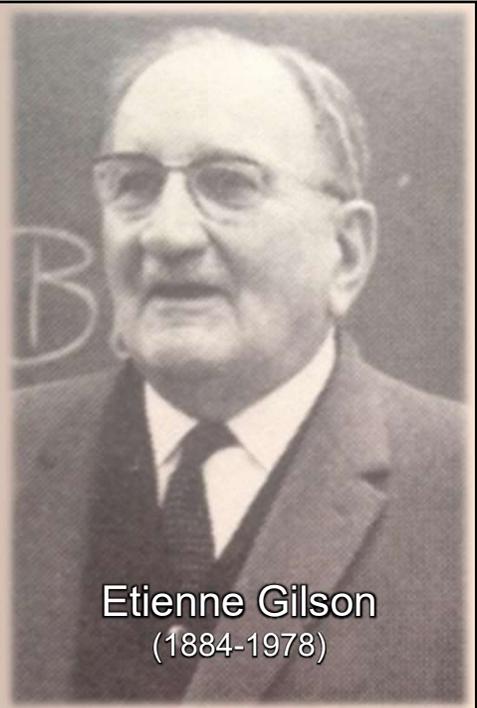


***"Metaphysical adventures are doomed to fail when their authors substitute the fundamental concepts of any particular science for those of metaphysics."***



Etienne Gilson  
(1884-1978)

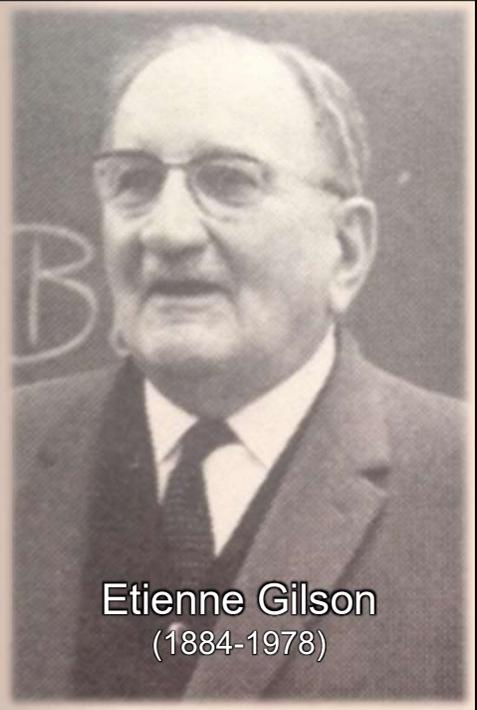
***"Theology, logic, physics, biology, psychology, sociology, economics are fully competent to solve their own problems by their own methods;"***



Etienne Gilson  
(1884-1978)

***"On the other hand ... as metaphysics aims at transcending all particular knowledge, no particular science is competent either to solve metaphysical problems, or to judge their metaphysical solutions."***

(Etienne Gilson, *The Unity of Philosophical Experience*, pp. 309-310).



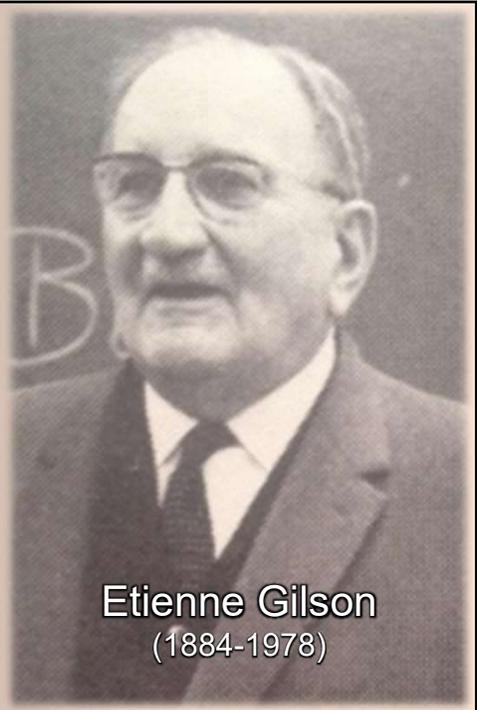
Etienne Gilson  
(1884-1978)

Etienne Gilson

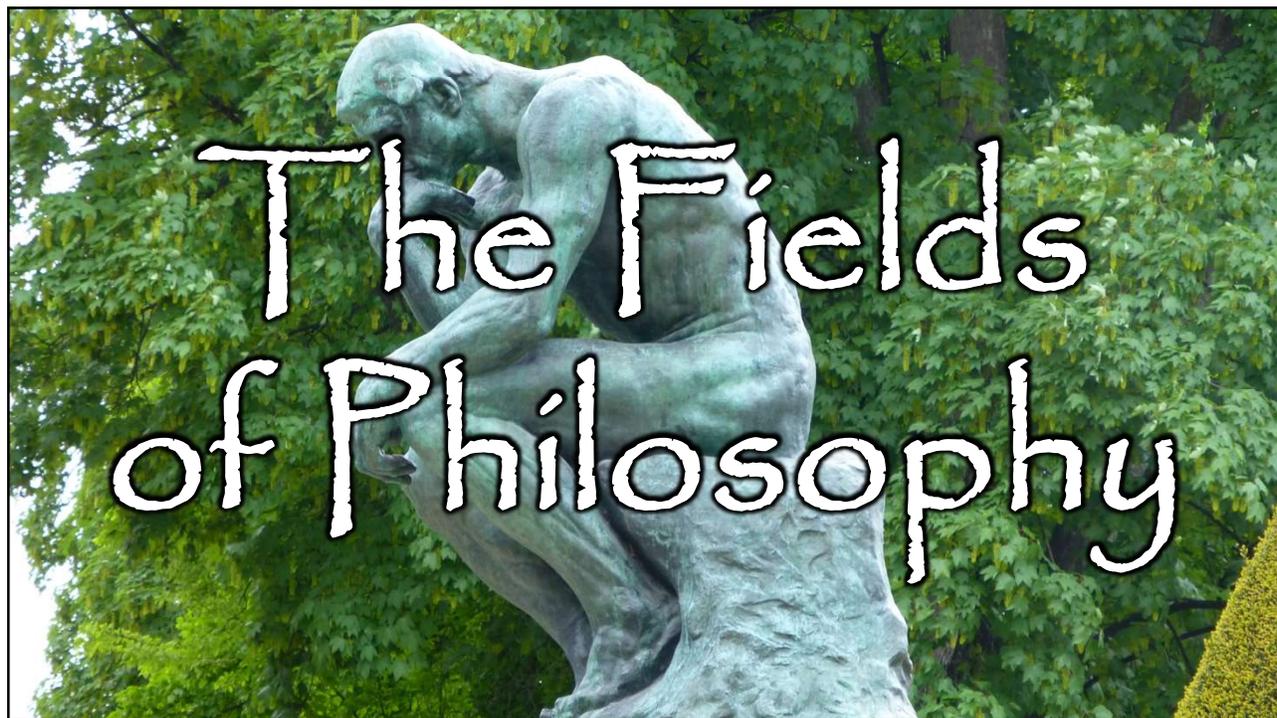
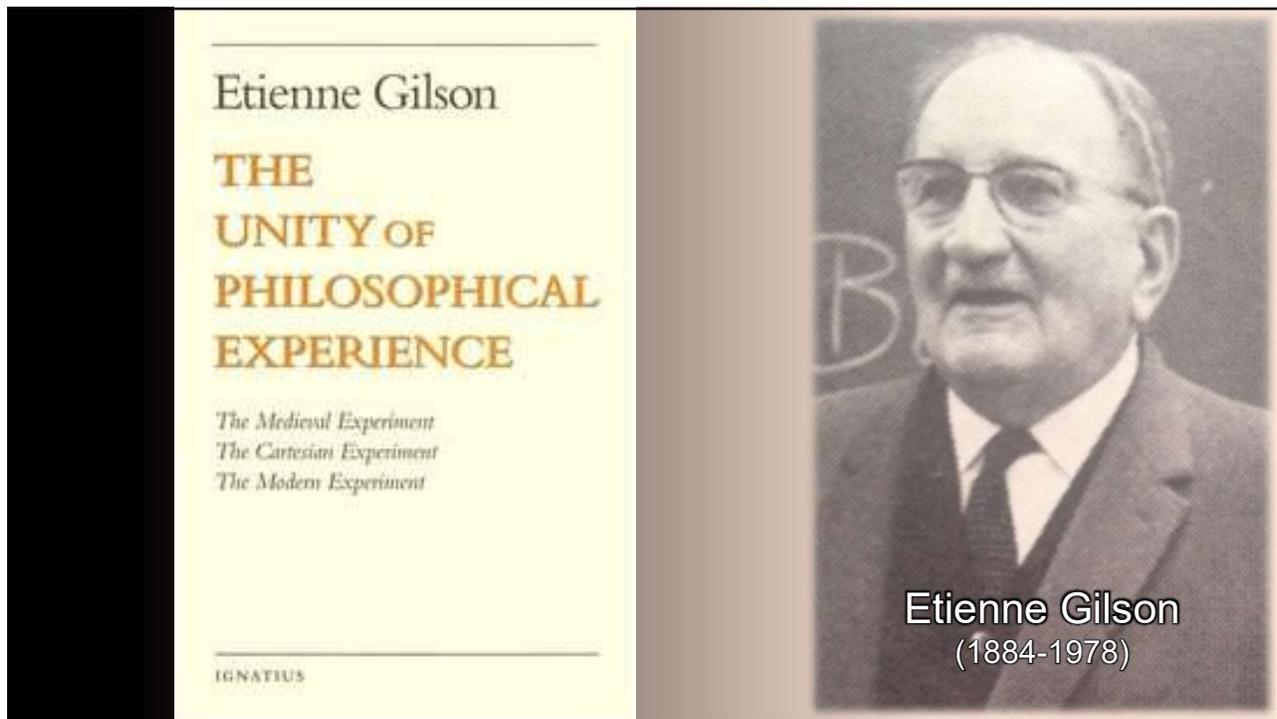
A SURVEY  
SHOWING THE UNITY OF  
MEDIÆVAL, CARTESIAN & MODERN  
PHILOSOPHY

The Unity of  
Philosophical  
Experience

CHRISTIAN CLASSICS  
FOUR COURTS PRESS



Etienne Gilson  
(1884-1978)



# Logic

- that field of philosophy that deals with the study of right reason or valid inferences and the attending fallacies, formal and informal.
- asks "What is a valid argument?"  
"What is fallacious reasoning?"

# Metaphysics

- that field of philosophy that deals with questions of the nature of reality
- asks "What is it to be real?"  
"How do things change yet remain the same?"

# Epistemology

- that field of philosophy that deals with questions of the knowledge of reality
- asks "How do I know what is real?"
  - "Can my senses tell me everything there is to know about reality?"

# Ethics

- that field of philosophy that deals with questions of the nature of right actions
- asks "What ought I do?"
  - "Ought we to do good for its own sake, or for the sake of certain consequences, or something else?"

# Political Philosophy

- that field of philosophy that deals with questions of the nature of the state (government)
- asks "Are there certain rights that transcend the authority of the state?"
  - "Where does government derive its authority?"
  - "What is a right?"

# Philosophy of Religion

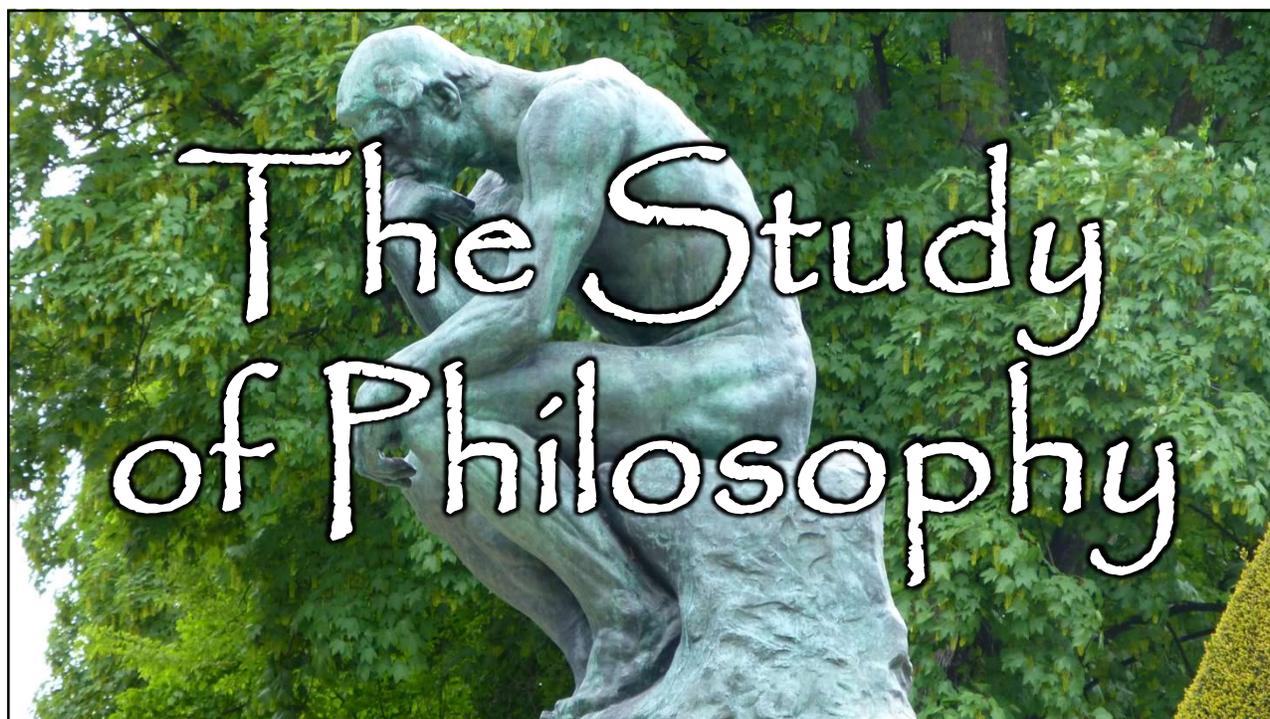
- that field of philosophy that deals with questions of the nature of God and religion
- asks "Does God exist?"
  - "Can His existence be rationally demonstrated?"
  - "What are God's attributes?"

# Philosophy of Science

- that field of philosophy that deals with questions of the nature of science and scientific inquiry
- asks "Does science give us a real account of nature, or merely a model?"
  - "Are there things off limits to the scientific method?"
  - "What is the scientific method?"

## Philosophy of ...

- mind, language, law, mathematics, history, education



## Historically

- ✓ follows the development of philosophy chronologically
- ✓ Philosophy is divided into four eras.



# Systematically

- follows the fields of philosophy (Logic; Metaphysics; Epistemology; Ethics; Political Philosophy; Philosophy of Religion; Philosophy of Science; Philosophy of ...)

# Individual Philosophers

- ✓ Aristotelianism, of Aristotle
- ✓ Thomism, of Thomas Aquinas
- ✓ Cartesianism, of Descartes
- ✓ Wittgensteinianism, of Wittgenstein
- ✓ Howe-ian?

# Individual Philosophies

- ✓ British Empiricism (Locke, Berkeley, Hume)
- ✓ Phenomenology (Husserl)
- ✓ Process Philosophy (Alfred North Whitehead)
- ✓ Existentialism (Nietzsche, Sartre, Camus)

# Philosophical Problems

- ✓ Mind/Body Problem
- ✓ Freedom & Determinism
- ✓ Personal Identity and Immortality
- ✓ Faith and Reason