

∞ Relativism ∞

denies that there is a universal or objective truth about X.

∞ Relativism ∞

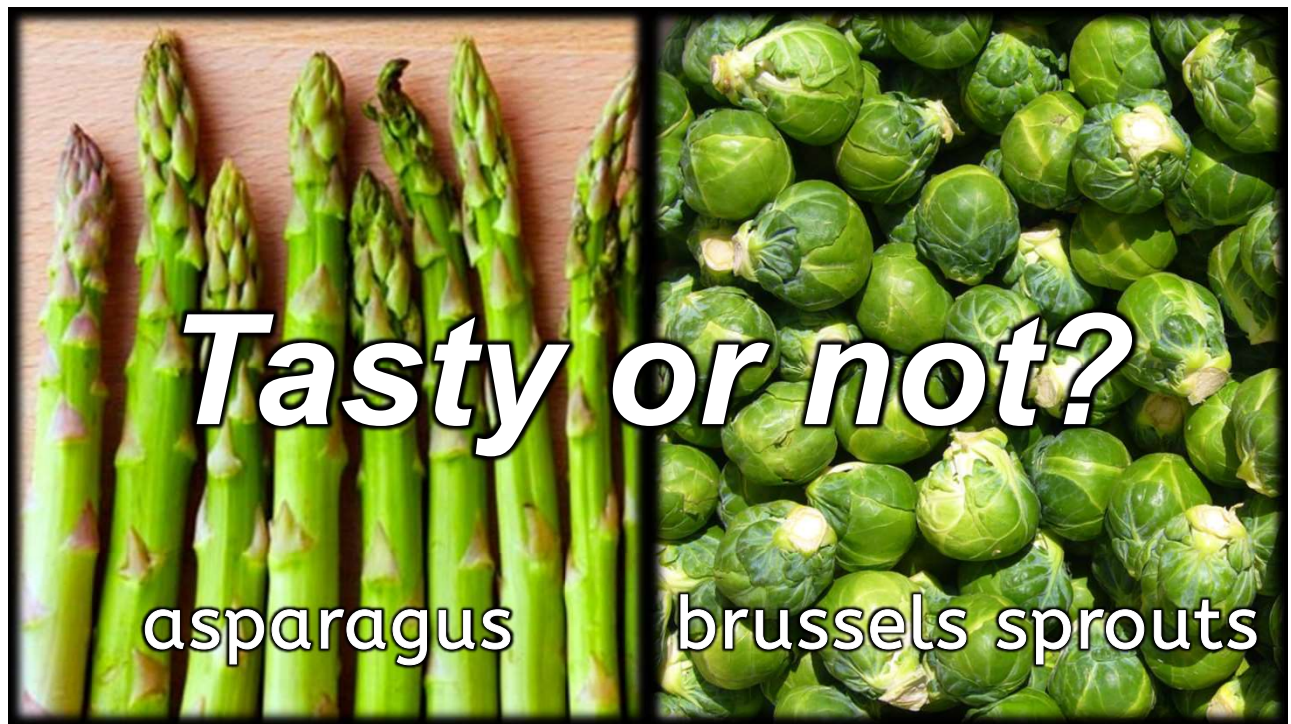
Relativism about "X" means that "X" or our knowledge of "X" is different for (i.e., relative to) different people.

∞ Relativism ∞

Another word for 'relative' or 'relativism' one might hear is 'subjective' or 'subjectivism'.

∞ Relativism ∞

Not all relativism or subjectivism is bad. Some relativism is completely normal.





∞ Skepticism ∞
says that there may be
objective truth about X,
but we cannot know what
that truth is.

∞ Pluralism ∞

is usually in reference to religious beliefs and comes in two types.

∞ Pluralism ∞

sociologically speaking is the recognition that, within a given context, there is a variety of religious beliefs.

∞ Pluralism ∞
philosophically speaking
is the claim that all
religious beliefs are
equally valid.



Varieties of
Skepticism

∞ Common Sense Skepticism ∞

- *a corrective to gullibility, superstition, and prejudice*
- *amounts to saying "Don't necessarily believe everything you hear."*

∞ Absolute Skepticism ∞

- *denies of the possibility of knowledge altogether*
- *Absolute skepticism comes in several types.*

∞ Absolute Skepticism ∞

Types of Absolute Skepticism

*The nature of reality
itself precludes the
possibility of
knowledge.
(Hereclitus)*



Heraclitus
(540-480 BC)

∞ Absolute Skepticism ∞

Types of Absolute Skepticism

*The nature of our
apparatus of knowing
precludes the
possibility of
knowledge. (Pyrrho)*



Pyrrho
(360-270 BC)

∞ Absolute Skepticism ∞

Types of Absolute Skepticism

The definition of knowledge precludes the possibility of knowledge. (Keith Lehrer)



Keith Lehrer

∞ Absolute Skepticism ∞

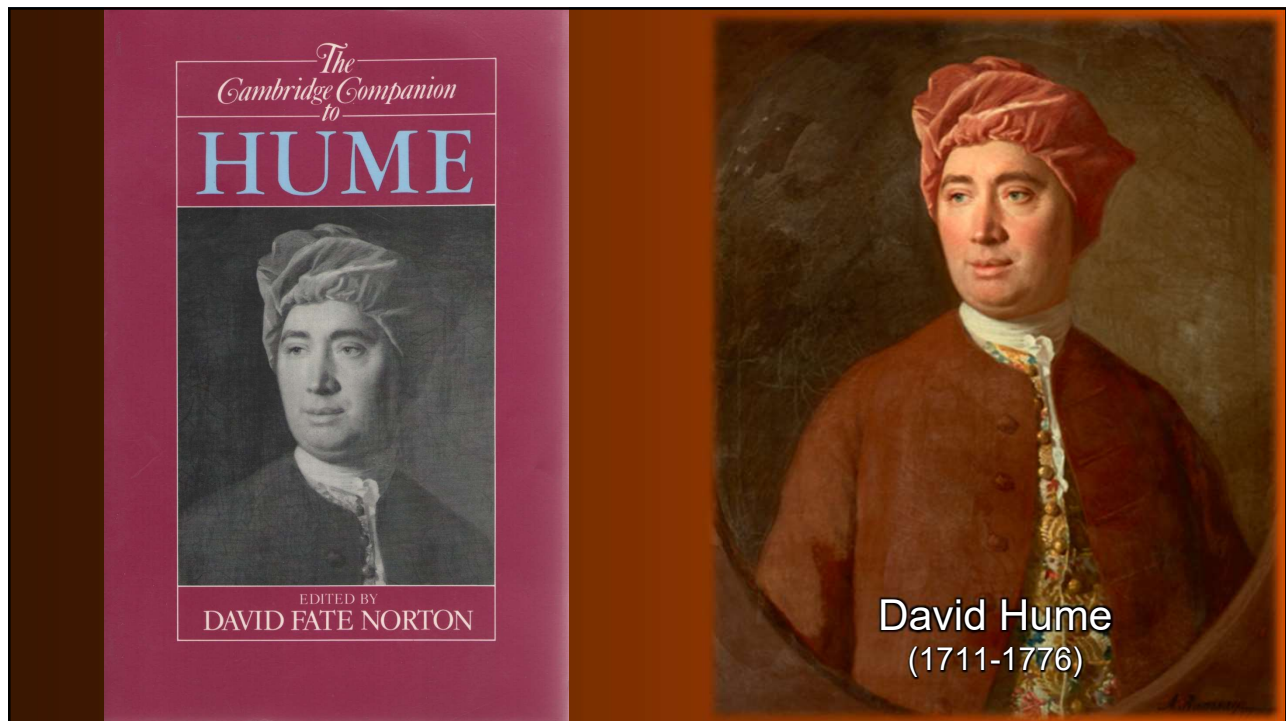
Is Absolute Skepticism Possible?

- *It seems impossible to live.*
- *It seems impossible to maintain.*
 - *Are not some things certain? e.g., $2 + 2 = 4$?*
 - *Are not some things undeniable? e.g., the existence of the sensory world? our own existence?*
- *Is not absolute skepticism self-refuting?*

∞ Philosophical Skepticism ∞

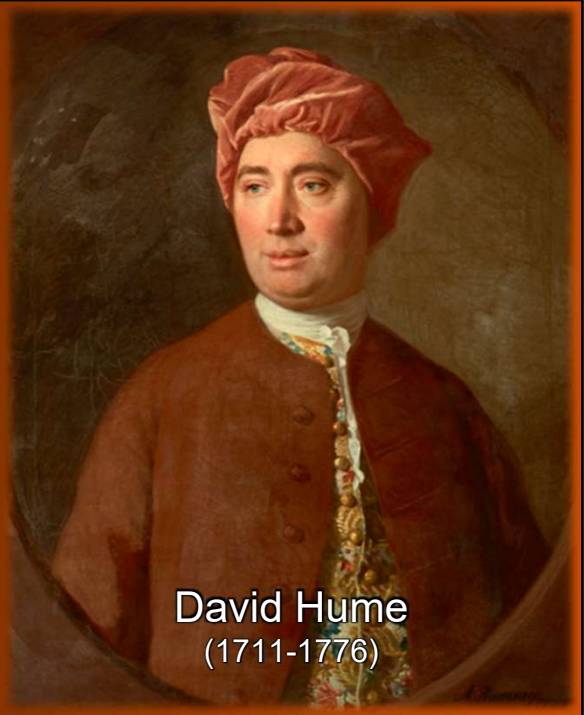
➤ *The tendency of some philosophers to deny or doubt the more cherished philosophical claims.*

- *that every event must have a cause*
- *that God exists*
- *that the external, sensible world exists*
- *that the external, sensible world is as we perceive it to be*



Philosophical Skepticism

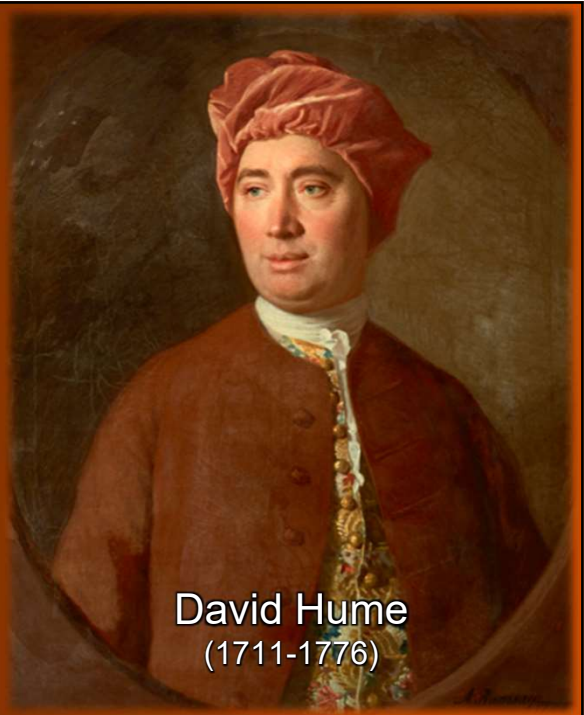
Hume is considered one of the most important philosophical skeptics of all time.



David Hume
(1711-1776)

Philosophical Skepticism

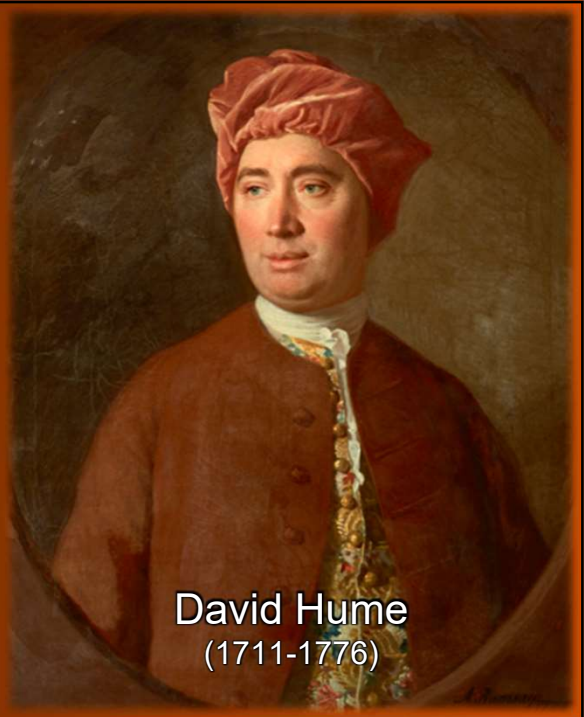
Though Hume was a skeptic, it is still accurate to call him an empiricist, for he believed that all knowledge comes through experience.



David Hume
(1711-1776)

Philosophical Skepticism

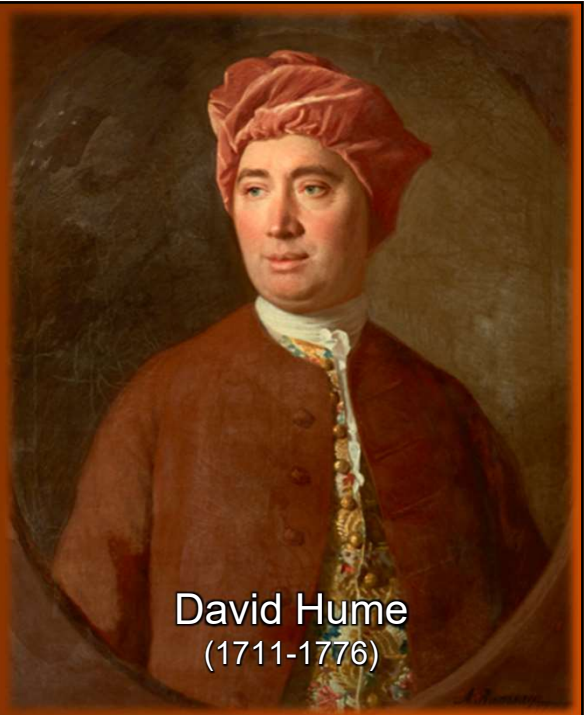
*Three of the biggest
apologetic issues argued
today are framed and
discussed the way they
are because of the
influence of David Hume.*



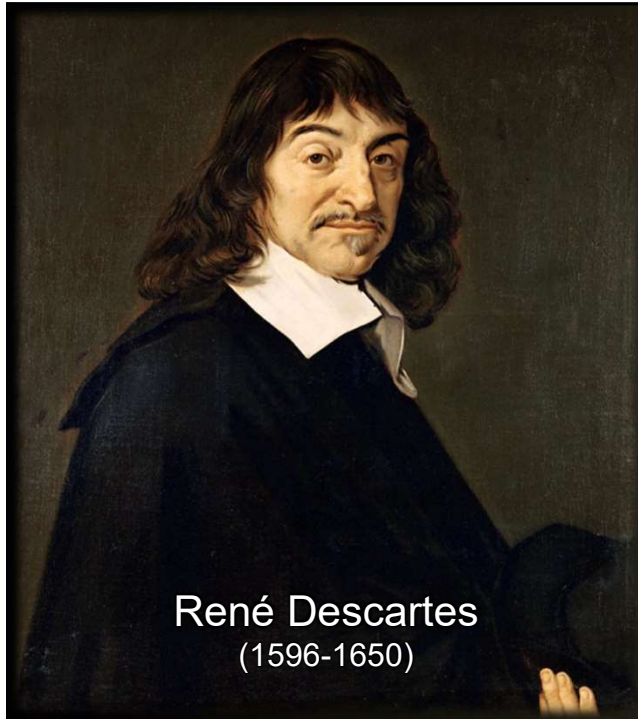
David Hume
(1711-1776)

Philosophical Skepticism

*miracles
the design argument for
the existence of God
the problem of evil*

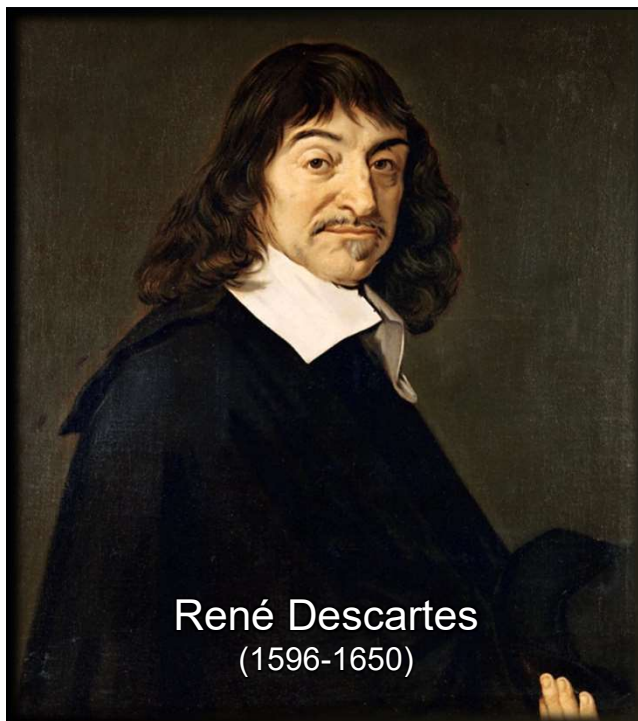


David Hume
(1711-1776)

A portrait of René Descartes, a French philosopher, mathematician, and scientist. He is shown from the chest up, wearing a dark blue or black robe with a white collar. He has long, dark, wavy hair and a small mustache. He is looking slightly to the right of the viewer.

Methodological Skepticism

René Descartes
(1596-1650)

A portrait of René Descartes, a French philosopher, mathematician, and scientist. He is shown from the chest up, wearing a dark blue or black robe with a white collar. He has long, dark, wavy hair and a small mustache. He is looking slightly to the right of the viewer.

Methodological Skepticism

Though Descartes himself was not a skeptic, he used skepticism as a method to discover if there were any certain truths.

René Descartes
(1596-1650)