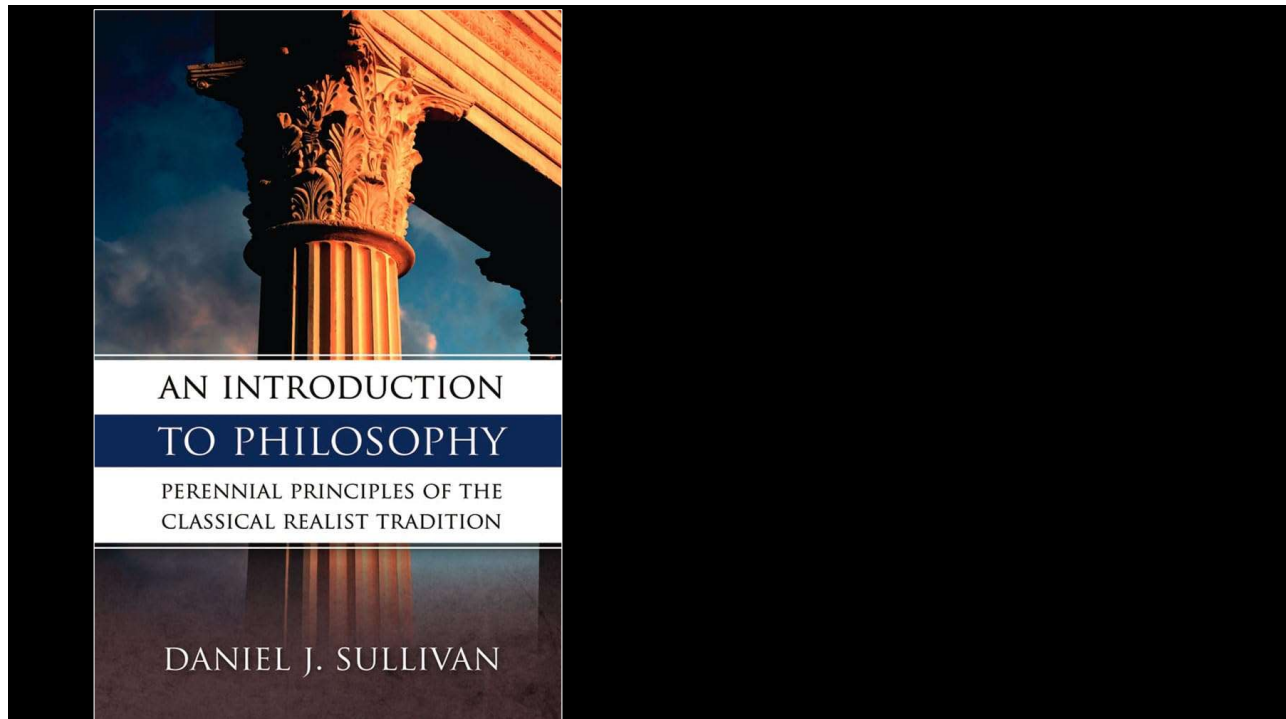
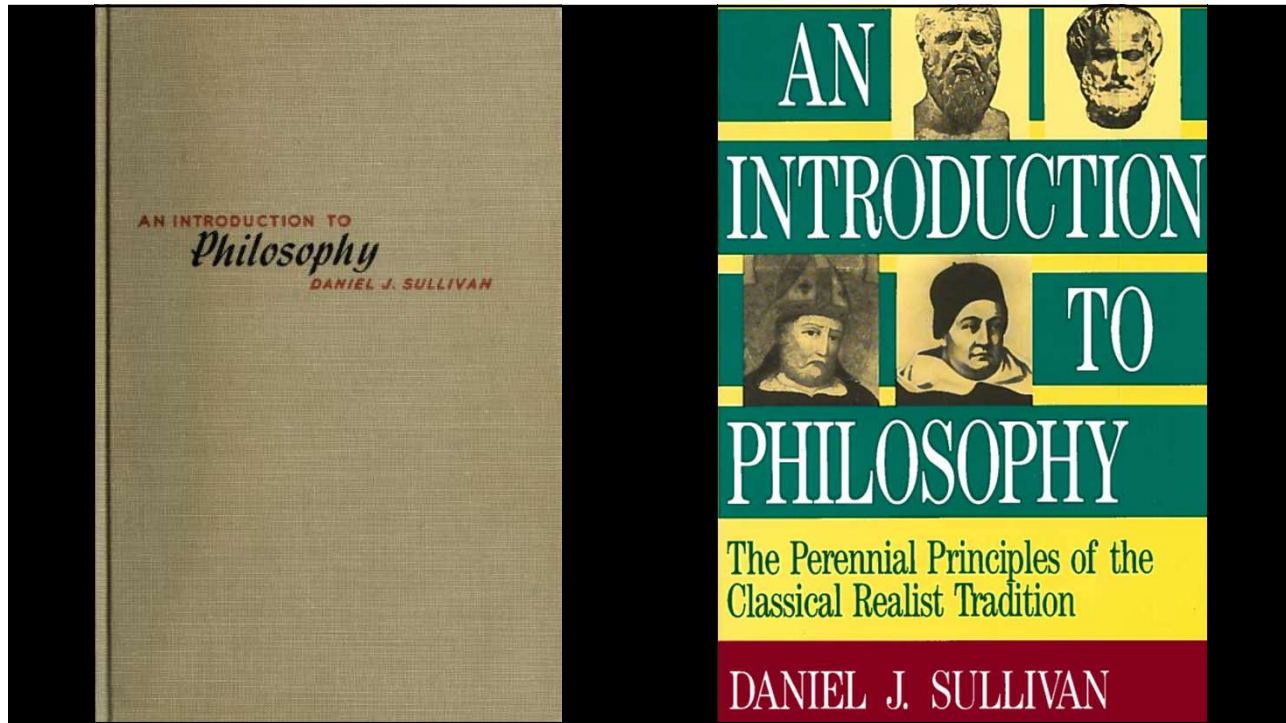


**φίλος (philos); φιλέω (phileo)**  
**beloved, friend; I love**

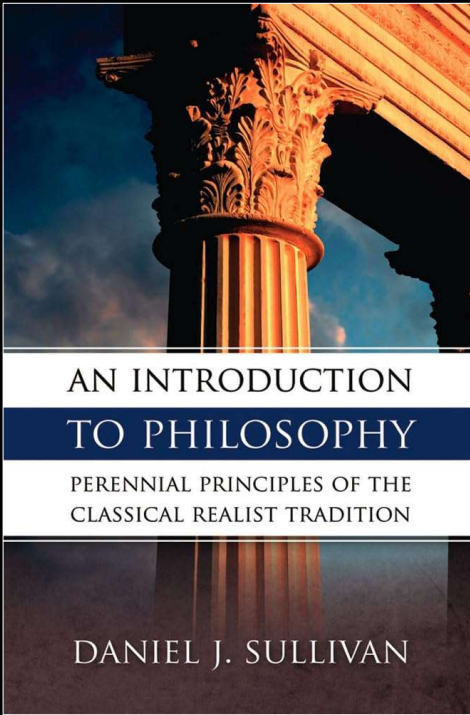
**+**

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

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





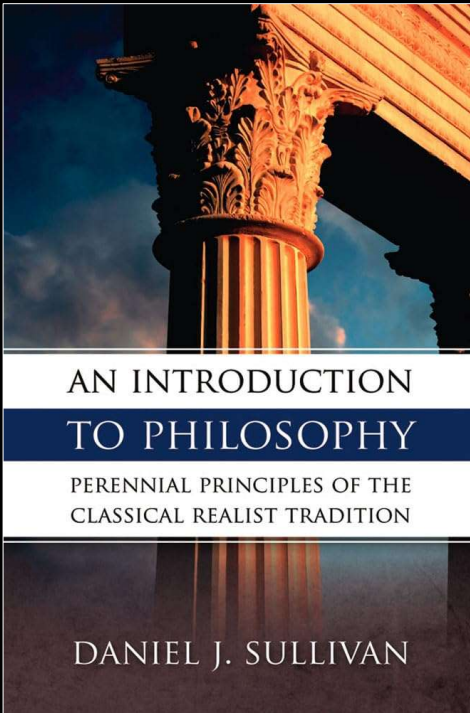


AN INTRODUCTION  
TO PHILOSOPHY

PERENNIAL PRINCIPLES OF THE  
CLASSICAL REALIST TRADITION

DANIEL J. SULLIVAN

***"To understand what philosophy is in the strict, technical sense requires a knowledge of philosophy. It is impossible, therefore to start with a definition of philosophy in the strict sense which will have much meaning for one who is just beginning his study of philosophy."***

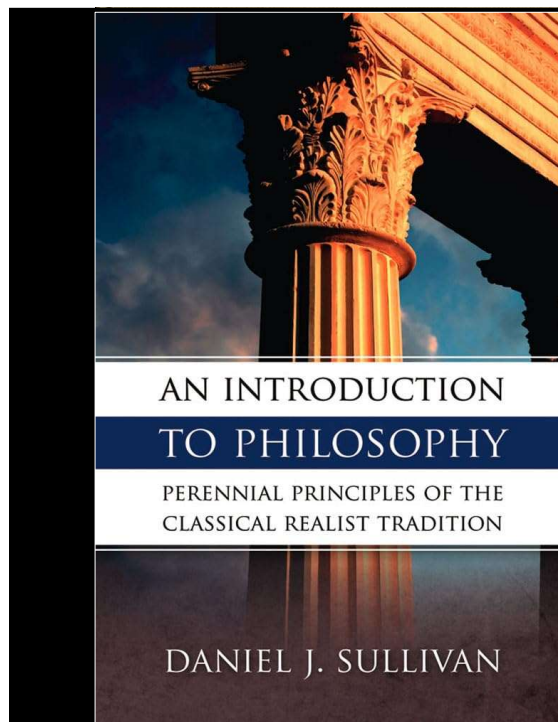


AN INTRODUCTION  
TO PHILOSOPHY

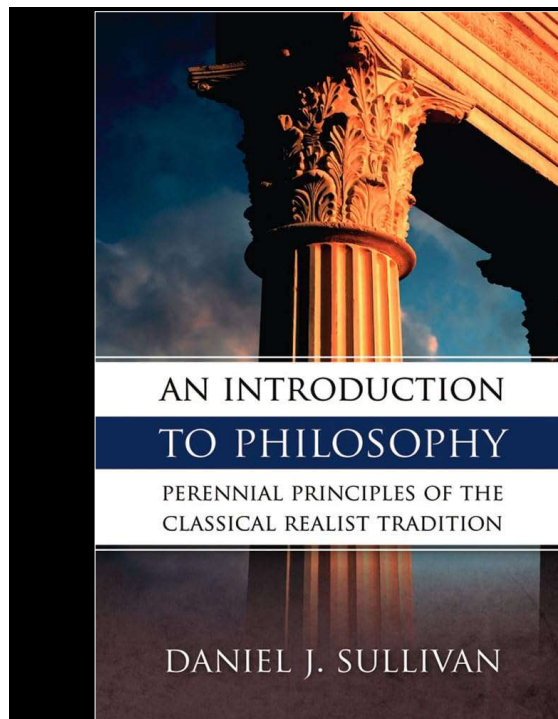
PERENNIAL PRINCIPLES OF THE  
CLASSICAL REALIST TRADITION

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***"For the present, we will content ourselves with the most general description of what philosophy is."***



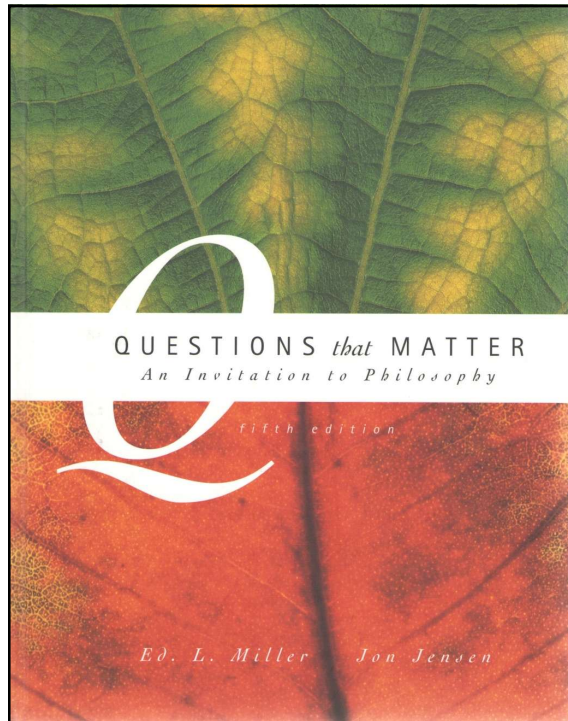
***"The numerous schools of philosophy that have arisen have offered different explanations of what philosophy is. Most of them agree, though, that it is concerned with the broad view of things."***



***"Where the scientific specialist concerns himself with a single feature of reality—the astronomer, for example, with the study of the heavenly bodies—the philosopher seeks to view the whole of reality in a single comprehensive glance, to organize all aspects of reality into a unified world view."***

[Daniel J. Sullivan, *An Introduction to Philosophy: The Perennial Principles of the Classical Realist Tradition* (Rockford: TAN Books, 1992), 2]





## 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 whereas religion often recognizes additional authority such as a sacred book.*
- ✓ *The Christian philosopher recognizes the Bible as the ultimate authority as God's inspired and inerrant word.*

## How do philosophy and religion compare and contrast?

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## How do philosophy and religion compare and contrast?

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- ✓ *The Christian philosopher recognizes **the Bible** as the ultimate authority as God's inspired and inerrant word.*



*The relationship between what God's word gives us and what human reason can give us is referred to as the relationship of faith and reason.*

*"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 sciences 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)

*"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 sciences are bound ultimately to agree."*

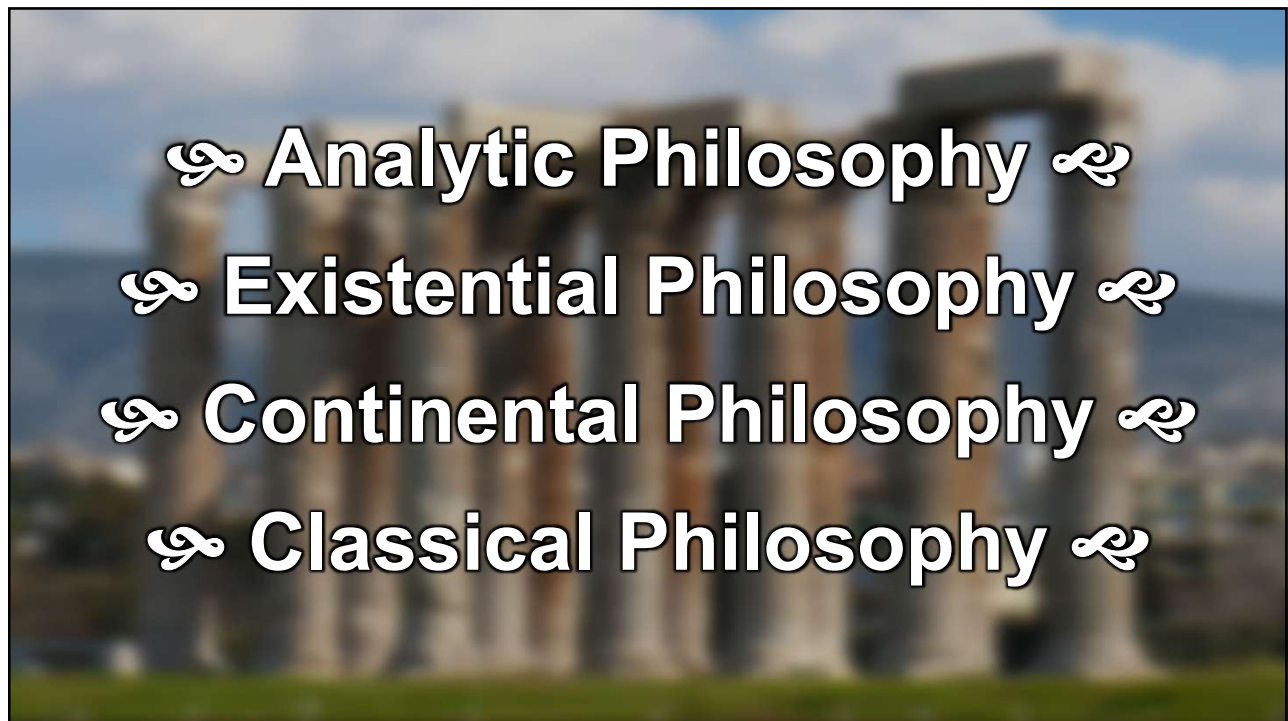
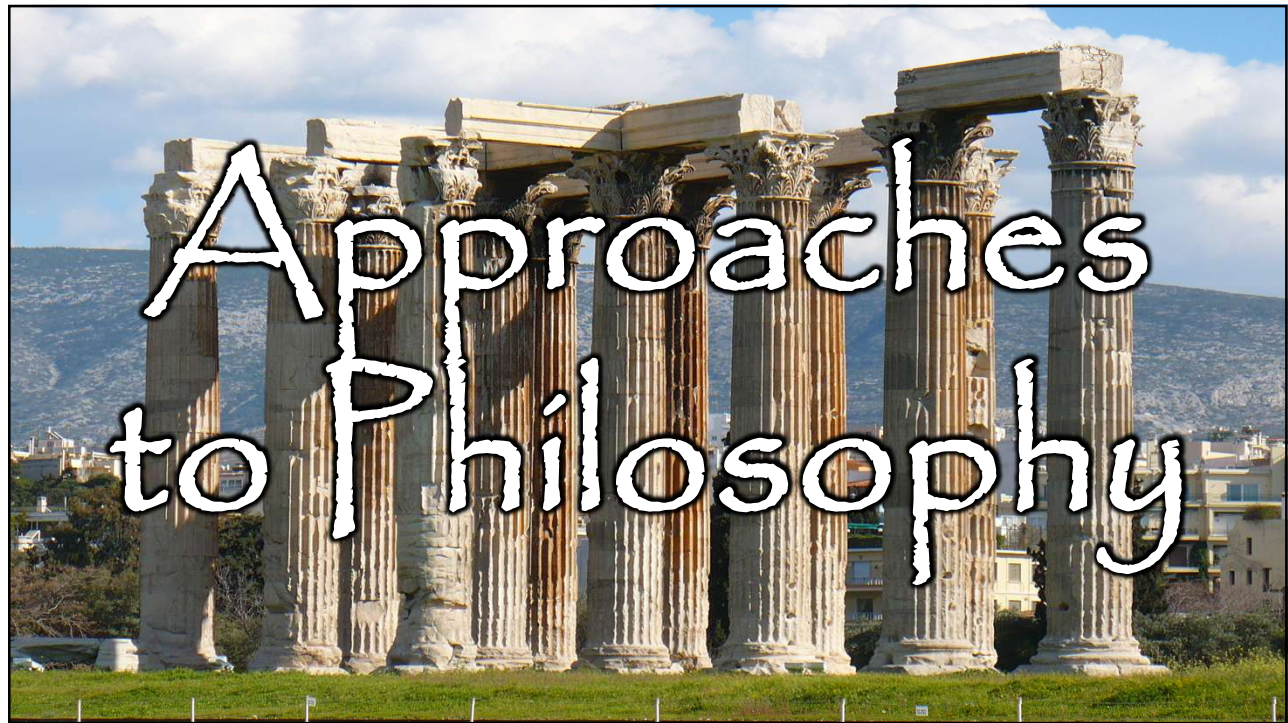
[Etienne Gilson, *The Unity of Philosophical Experience: A Survey Showing the Unity of Medieval, Cartesian, and Modern Philosophy* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1937), 62]

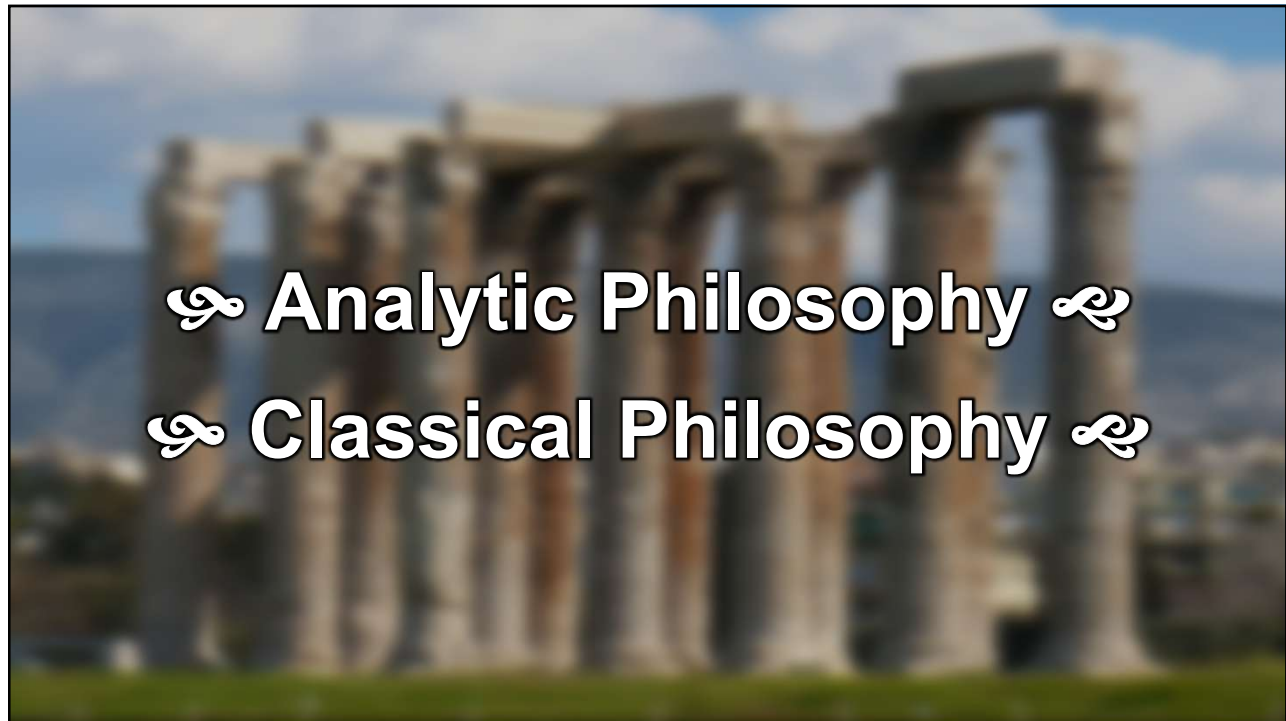
The term 'science' here does not mean what we commonly mean by the term today.

Rather, in this context, 'science' is any area of study that has principles and methods of reasoning that govern that area.

(1884-1978)









## ∞ Analytic ∞

*Analytic Philosophy is by far the most common approach to philosophy today in Anglo-American philosophy departments or faculties.*

## ∞ Classical ∞

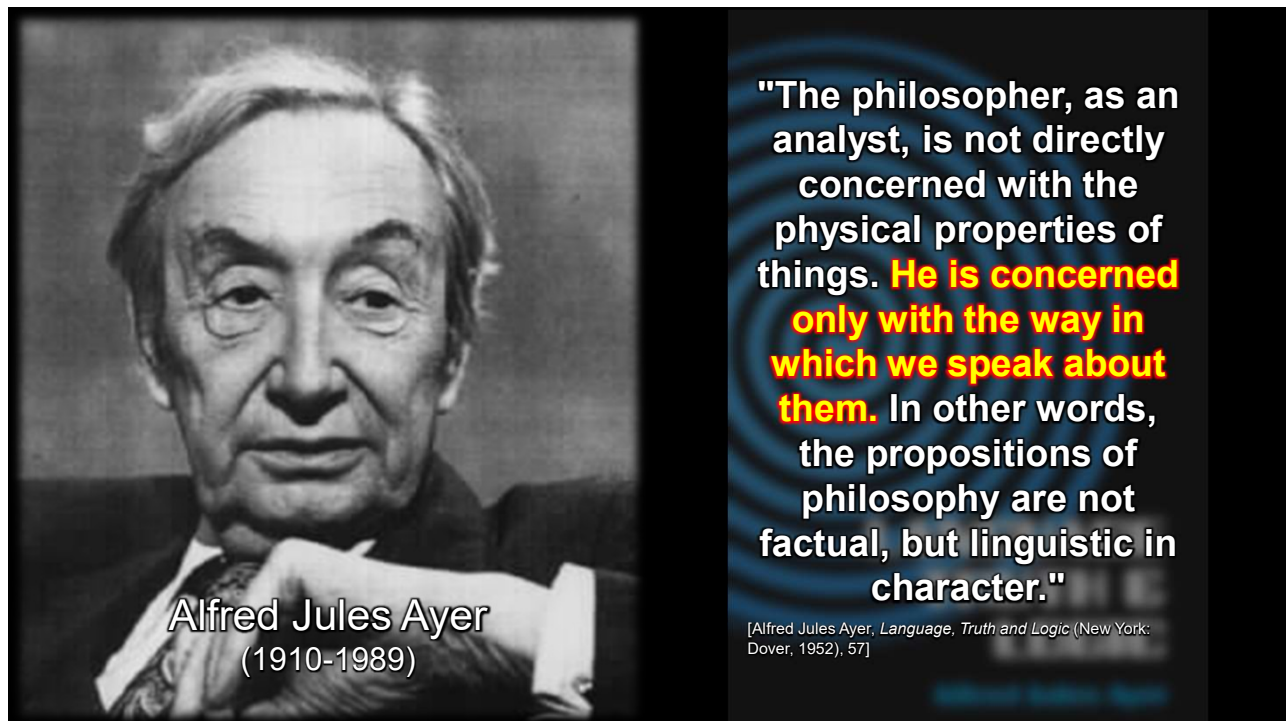
*Classical Philosophy has fallen into much disrepute in contemporary philosophy but is making a comeback in certain circles.*

## ∞ Analytic ∞

*At its inception at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, it was concerned primarily with the analysis of concepts and terms and the clarification of language.*

## ∞ Classical ∞







## 🌀 Analytic 🌀

*At its inception at the beginning of the 20th century, it was concerned primarily with the analysis of concepts and terms and the clarification of language.*

## 🌀 Classical 🌀

*Classical Philosophy also 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.*

## 🌀 Analytic 🌀

*It made use of rigorous logic in its analysis of philosophical questions seeking only to clarify the language of other disciplines.*

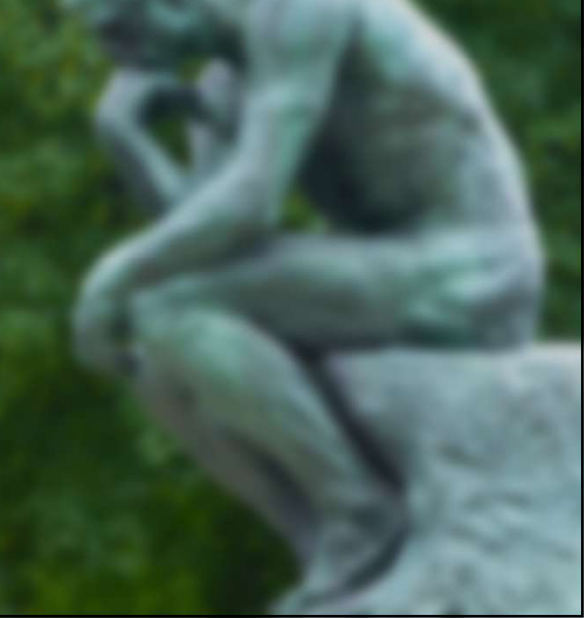
## 🌀 Classical 🌀

*Classical Philosophy goes beyond the supposition that the task of the philosopher is to merely clarify the language of other disciplines.*

## 🌀 Analytic 🌀

*In its most extreme forms, Analytic Philosophy denies that the discipline of philosophy had its own body of knowledge.*

## 🌀 Classical 🌀



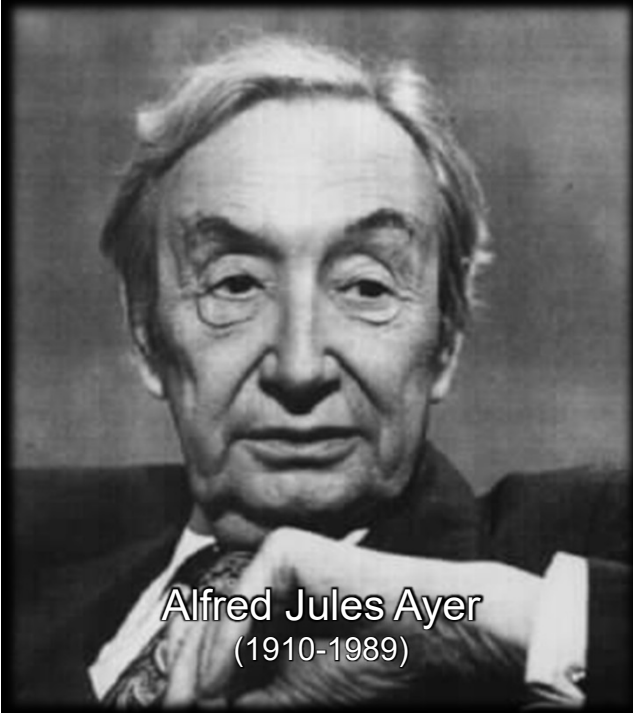
Alfred Jules Ayer  
(1910-1989)

**"We mean also to rule out the supposition that philosophy can be ranged alongside the existing sciences, as a special department of speculative knowledge."**

[A. J. Ayer, *Language, Truth and Logic* (New York: Dover Publications, 1952), p. 48]







Alfred Jules Ayer  
(1910-1989)

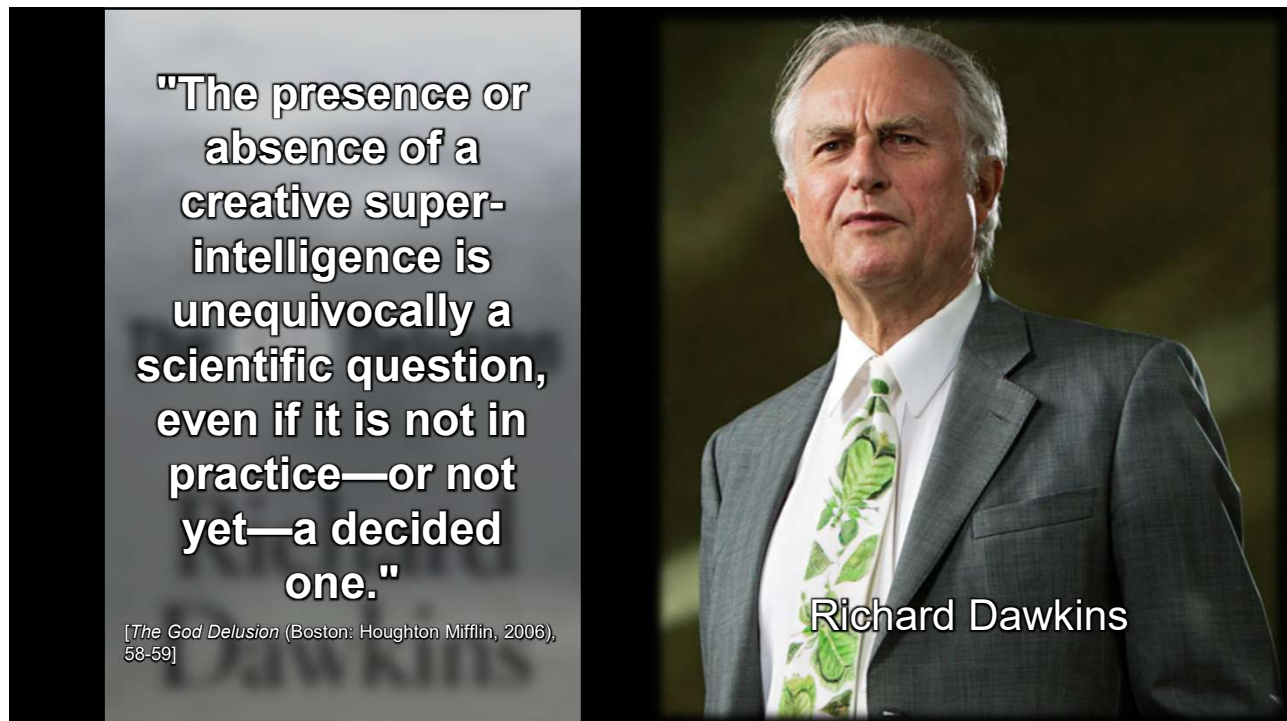
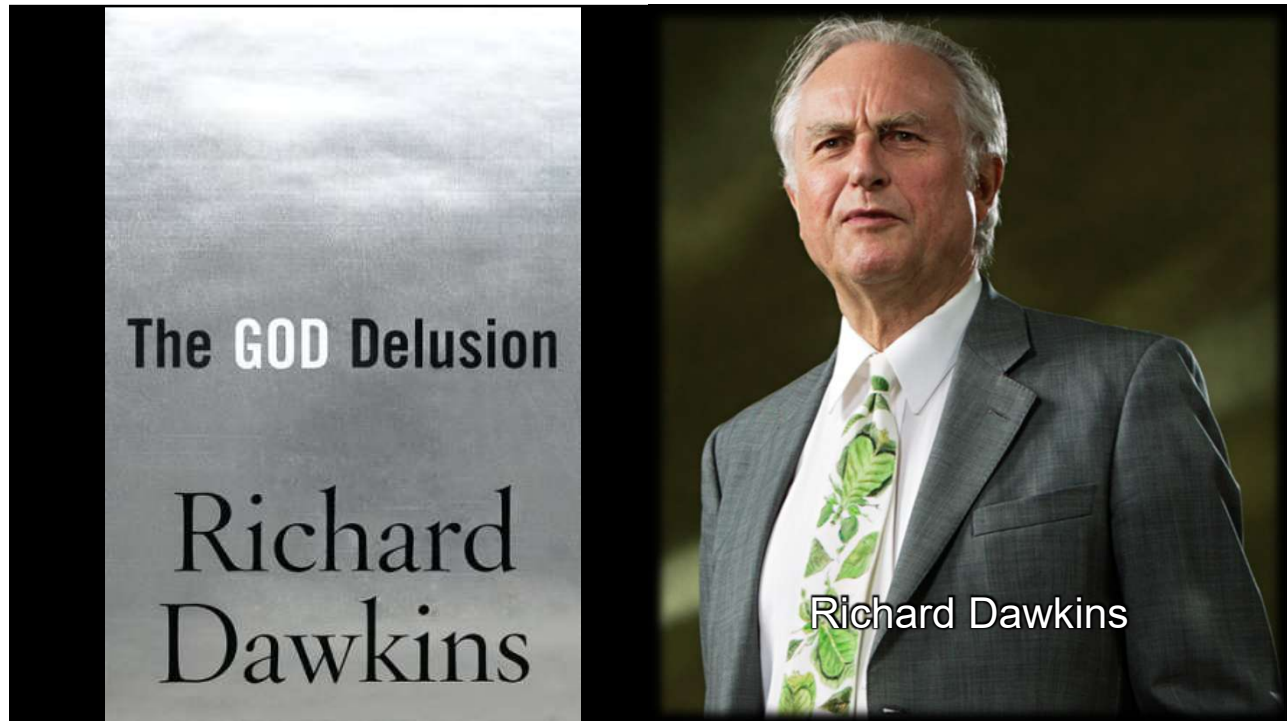
**"There is no field of experience which cannot, in principle, be brought under some form of scientific law, and no type of speculative knowledge about the world which it is, in principle, beyond the power of science to give."**

[Ayer, *Language*, p. 48]

**Ayer's philosophy became known as Logical Positivism (or Positivism for short).**

**It was quickly rejected by very nearly all philosophers with only a few holdouts.**

**In the popular (as opposed to the academic) discussion today, Positivism is disparagingly referred to as "Scientism".**





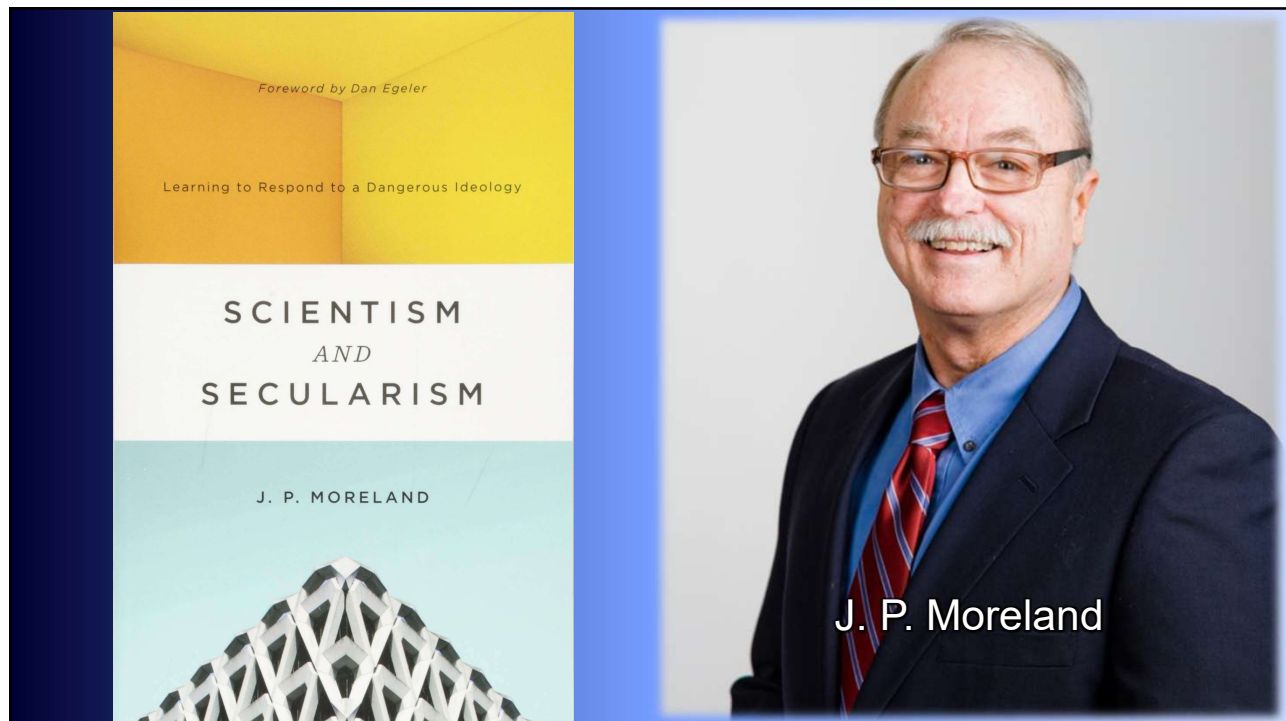
**"The presence or absence of a creative super-intelligence is unequivocally a scientific question, even if it is not in practice—or not yet—a decided one."**

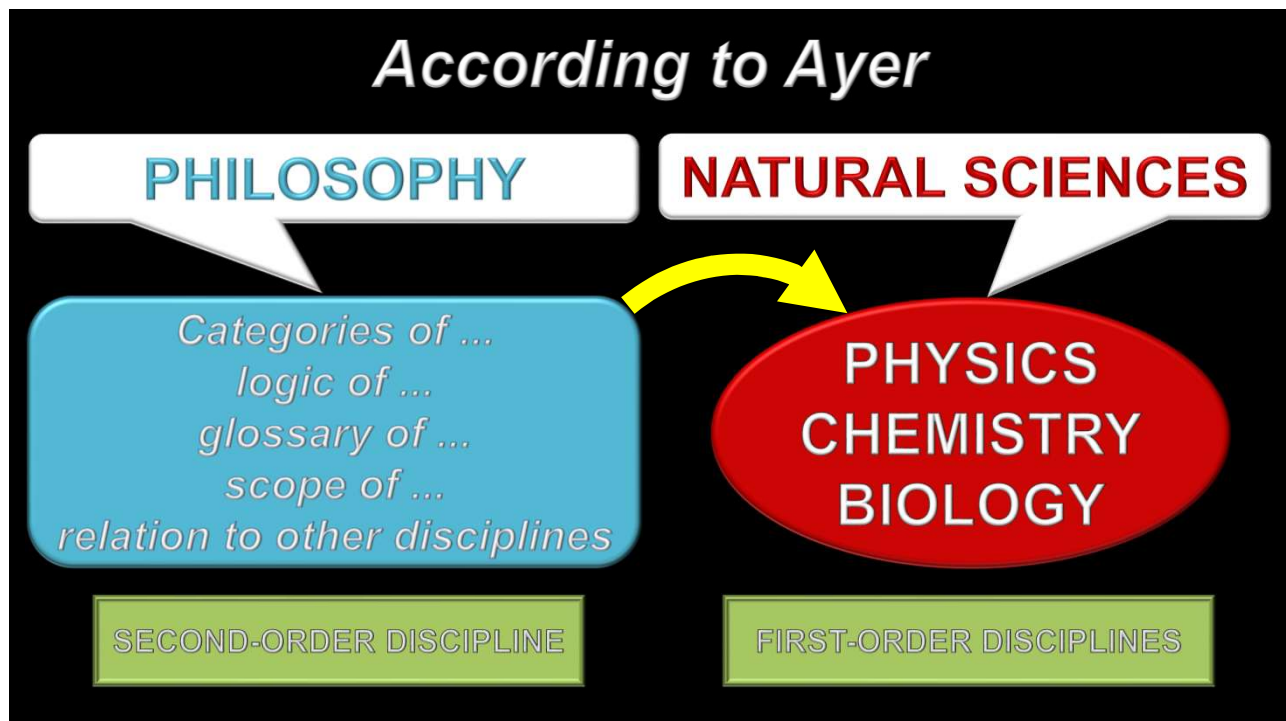
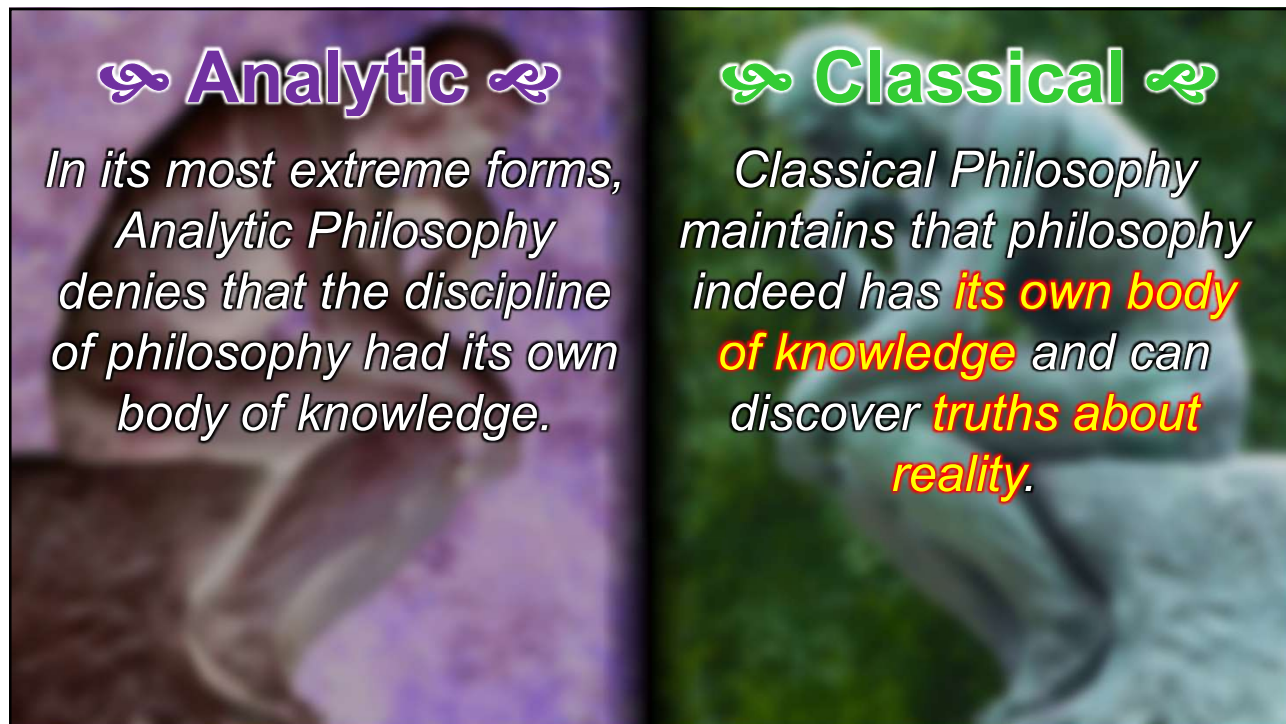
[*The God Delusion* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2006), 58-59]

The expression 'creative super-intelligence' is Dawkins' fancy term for 'God'.

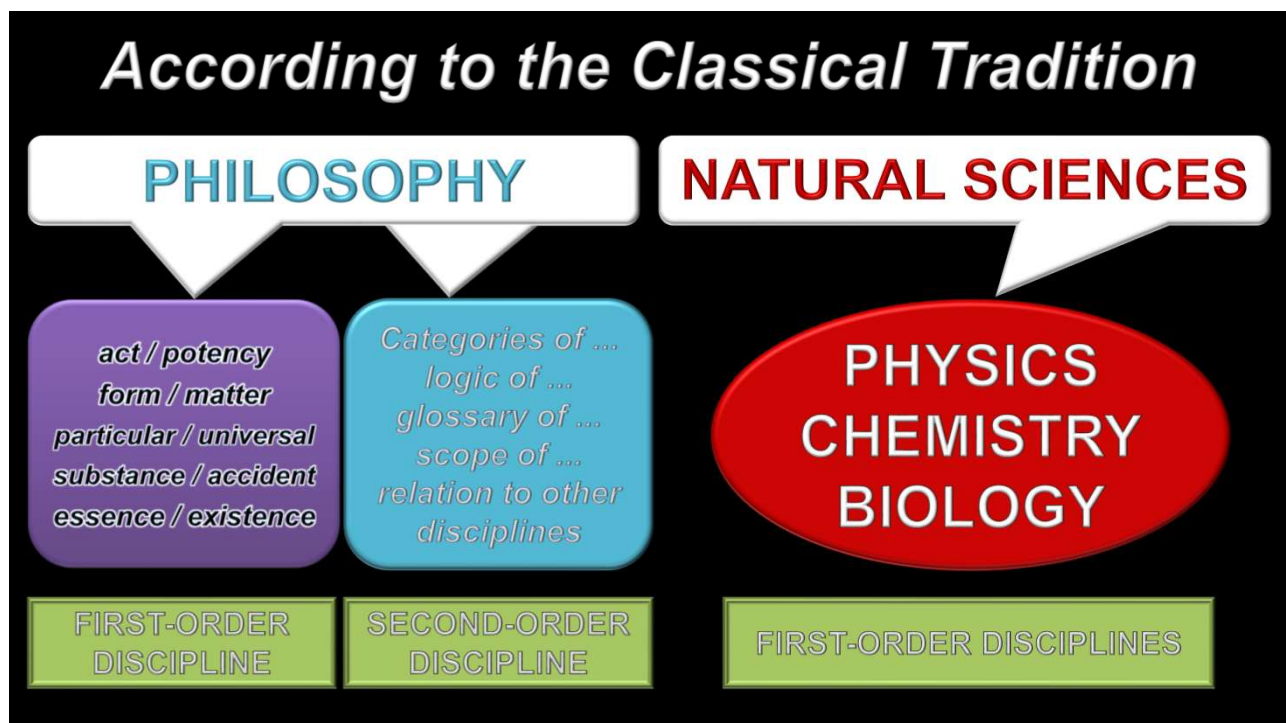
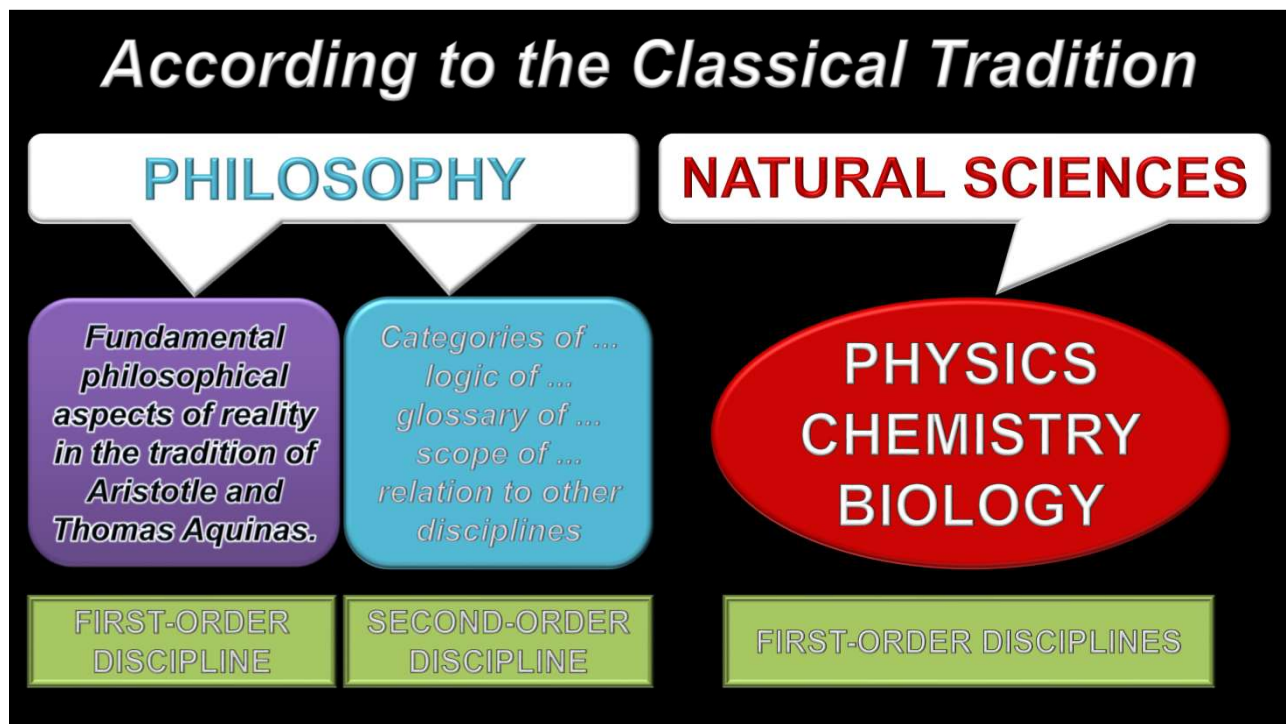
Without argument, Dawkins is asserting that the question of God's existence can only be answered using the methods of the natural sciences.

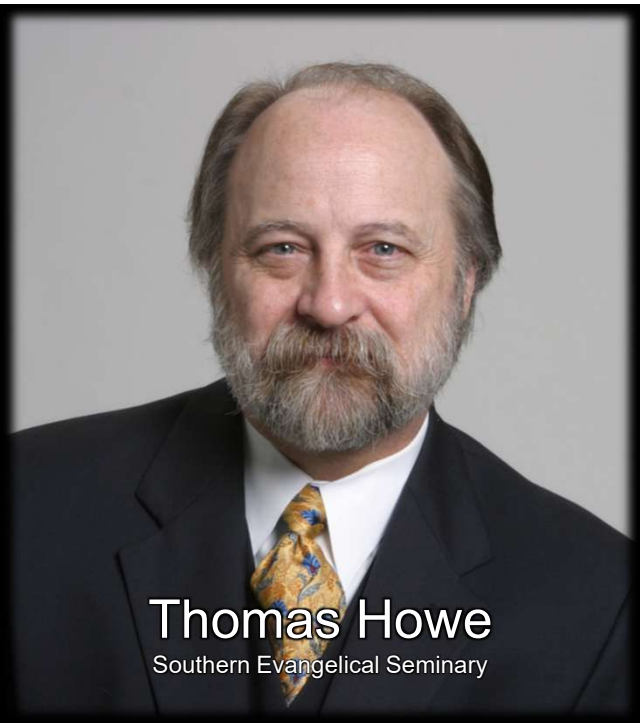
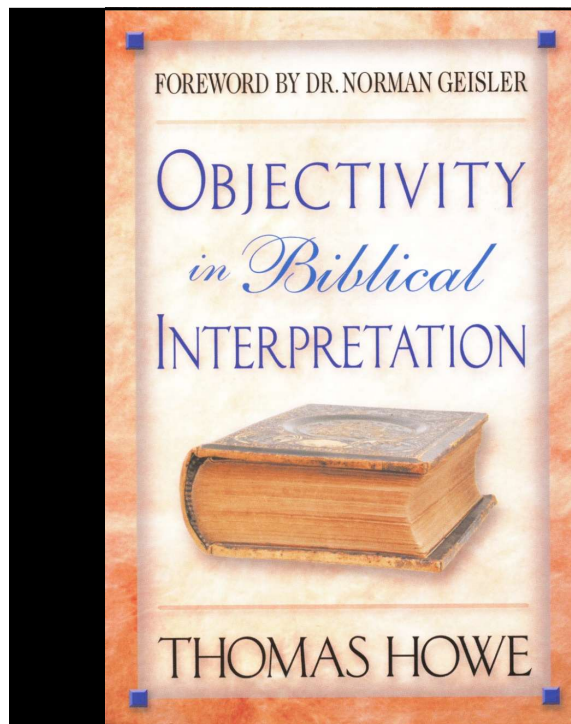
What Dawkins completely gets wrong is that the question of God's existence is a philosophical question.











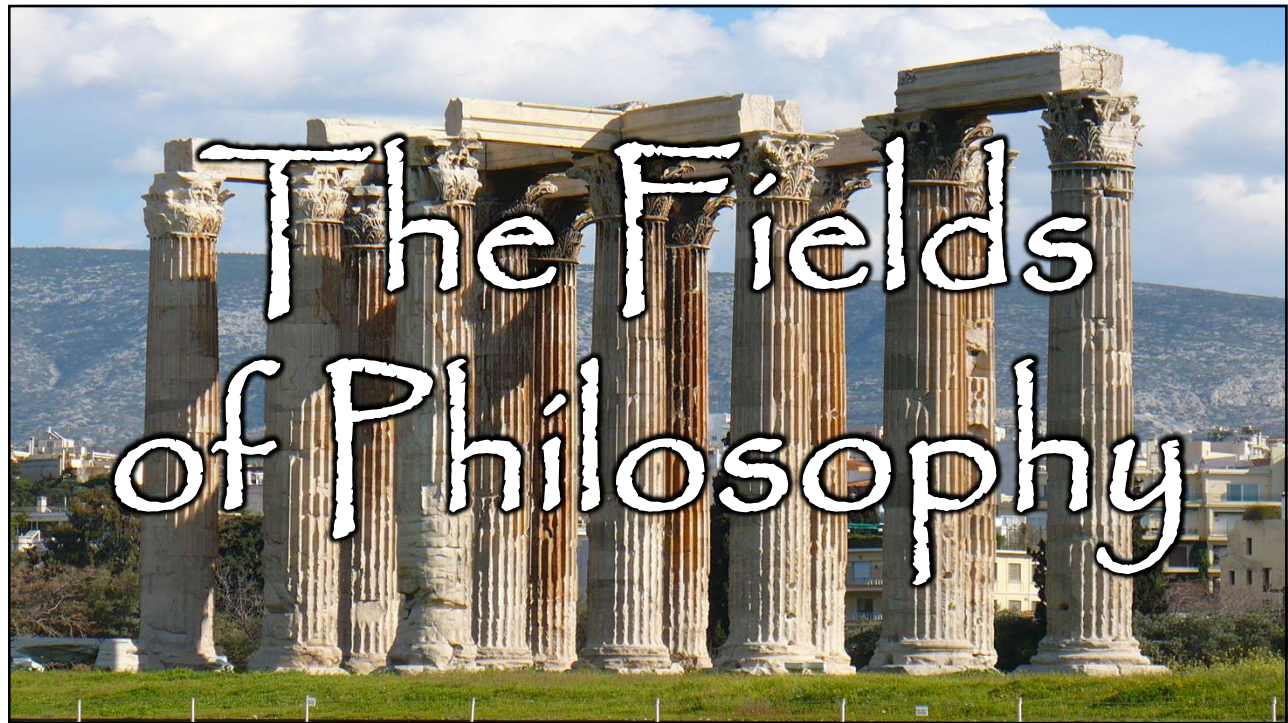
## ❧ Analytic ❧

*As Analytic Philosophy has developed in the 20<sup>th</sup> into the 21<sup>st</sup> centuries, it has moved away from the Positivism of Ayer and does seek to make claims about reality.*

## ❧ Classical ❧

*With this, the major difference between Analytic and Classical Philosophy is the Classical Philosophy seeks to do philosophy along the categories of Ancient Greek philosophy.*





## 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?"

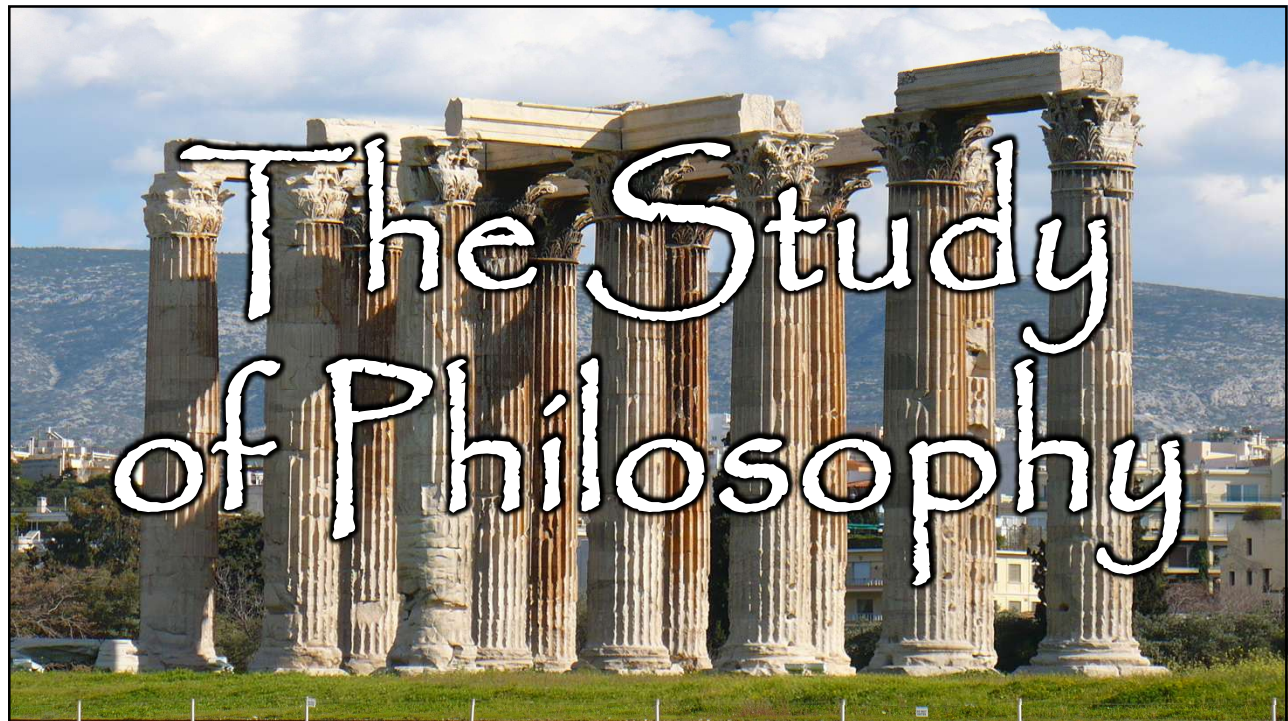
# Philosophy of Science

- 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?"



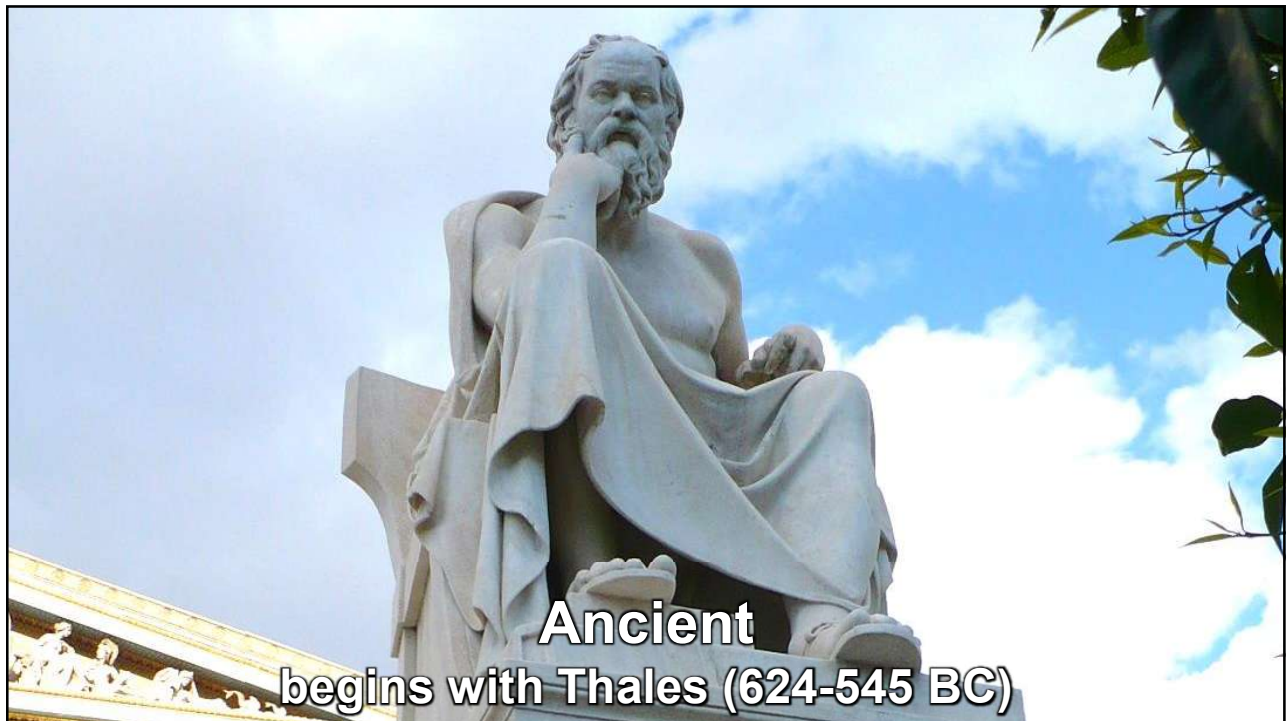
# Philosophy of ...

➤ mind, language, law, mathematics, history, education



# Historically

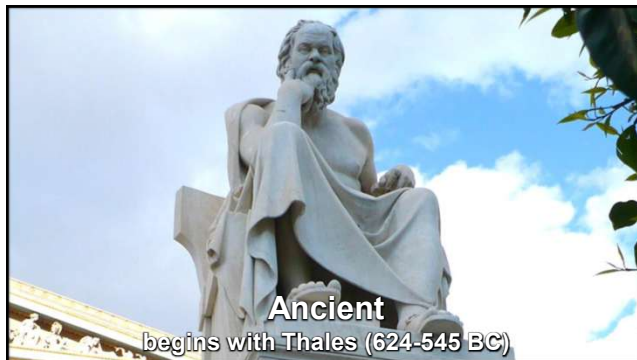
- ✓ follows the development of philosophy chronologically
- ✓ Philosophy is divided into four eras.













# 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-ism?

# 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



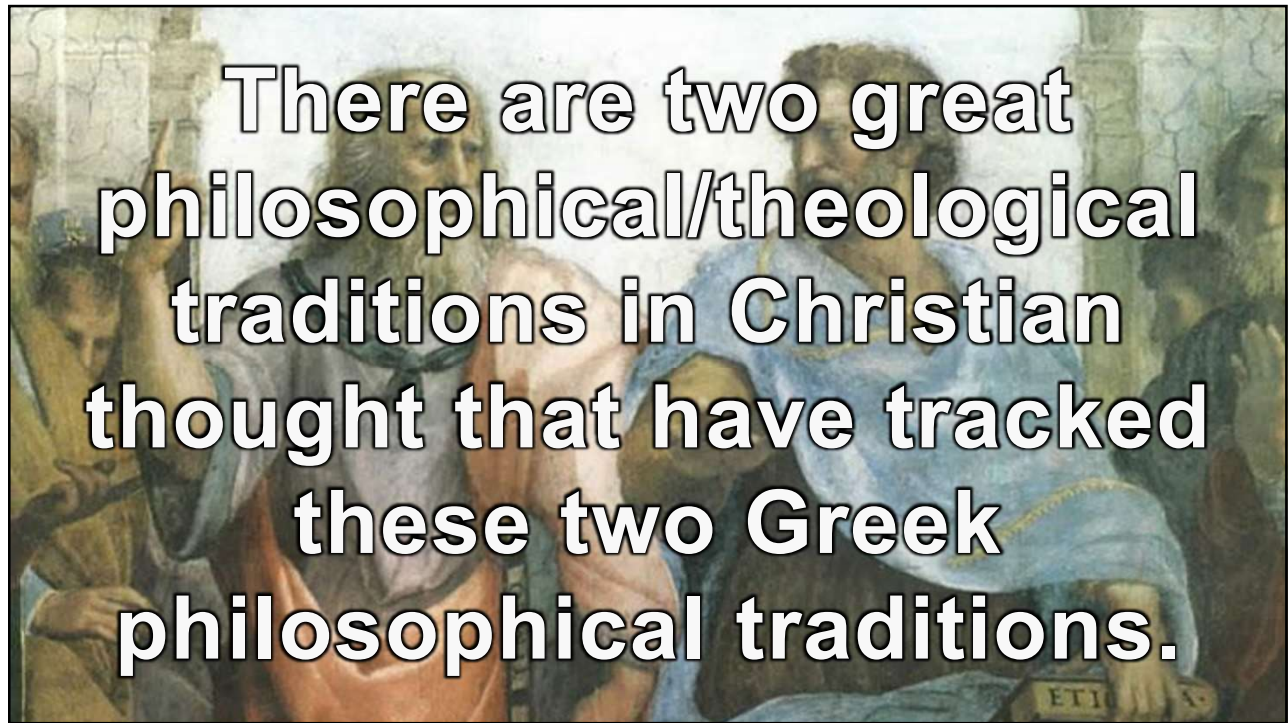


As the title "Classical Philosophy" suggests, we will be unpacking the elements of philosophy in light of a particular philosophical perspective.

There are two great  
philosophical traditions in  
Western thought that have  
endured since the ancient  
Greeks.



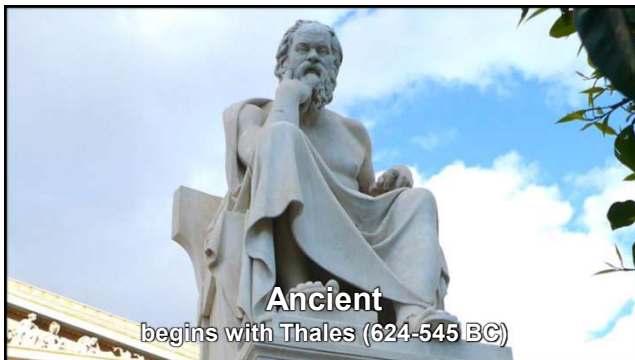






Exploring the contours of how these traditions have answered certain basic questions about the nature of reality and our knowledge of it, will enable us to position many questions and concerns we have as Christians.







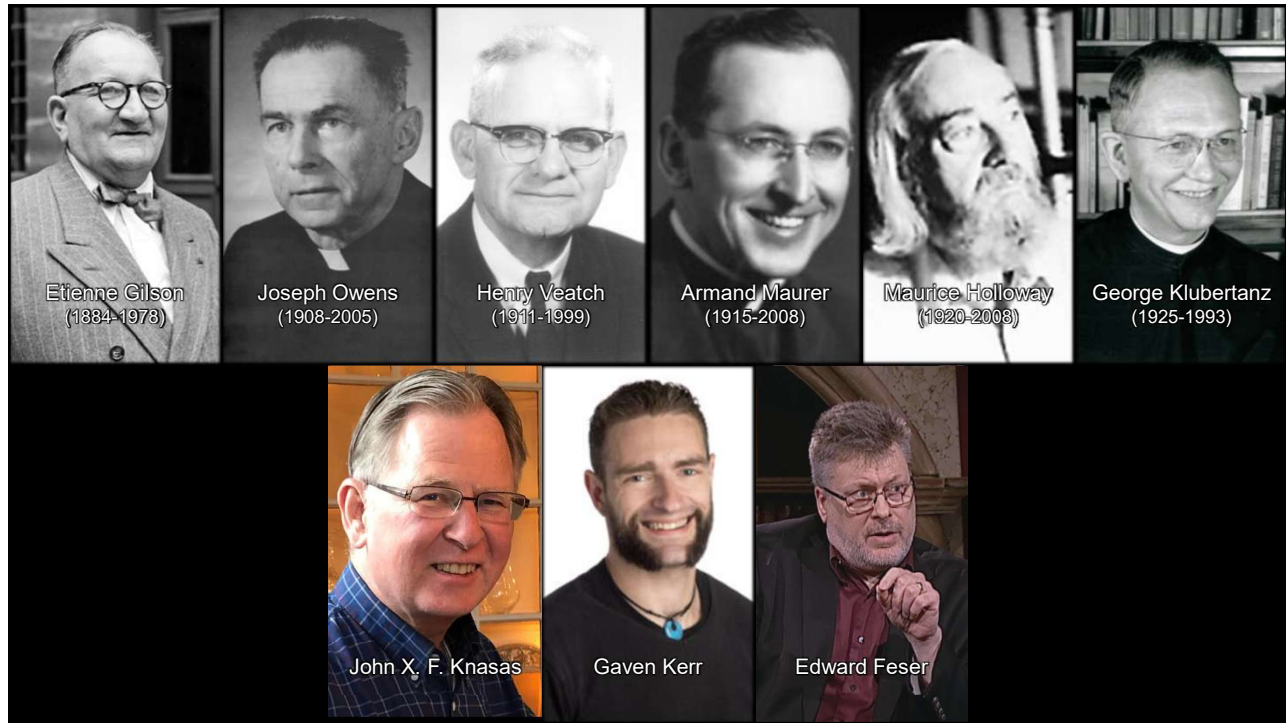














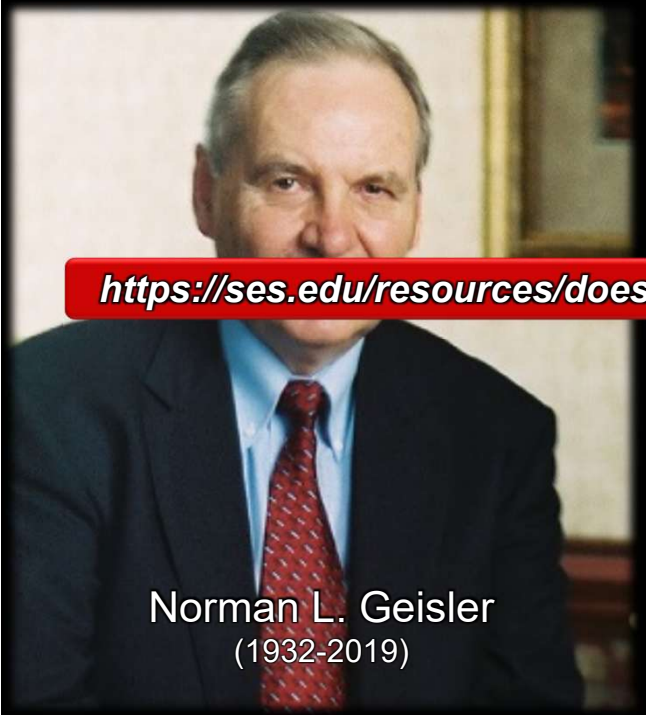












**Norman L. Geisler**  
(1932-2019)

<https://ses.edu/resources/does-thomism-lead-to-catholicism/>

**SSES SOUTHERN EVANGELICAL SEMINARY**  
Faith & Reason  
**DOES THOMISM LEAD TO CATHOLICISM?**

**Table of Contents**

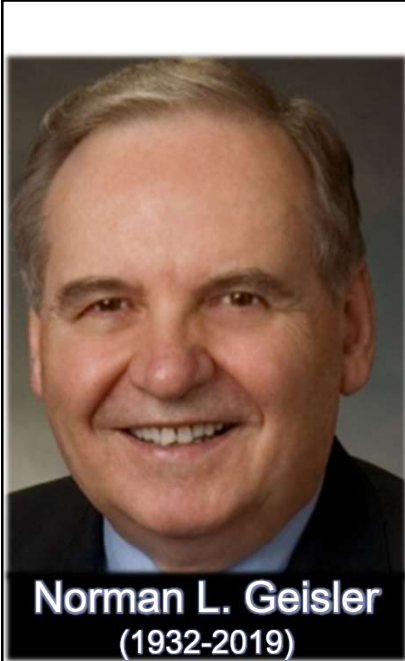
- [What is 'Thomism' and Why Does It Matter Now?](#)
- A Cause for Concern?
- Thomas Aquinas: Christian History
- Interview with Dr. Norman Geisler
- See the Vital Need for Apologetics-Focused Education

**What is 'Thomism' and Why Does It Matter Now?**

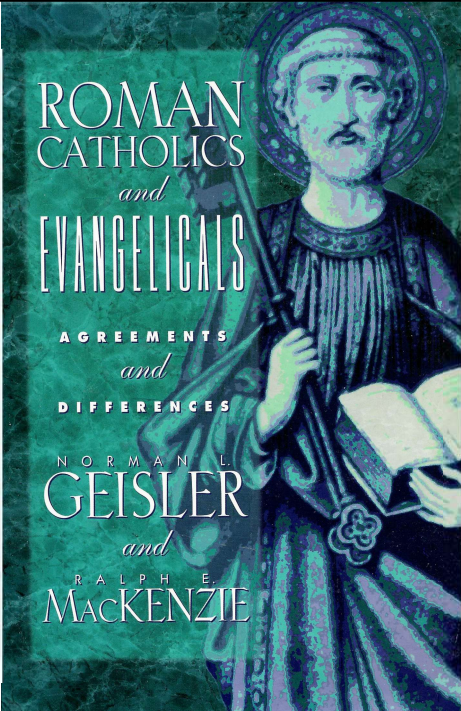
While there are different definitions of Thomism depending on whom you ask, as it relates to Southern Evangelical Seminary, Thomism or "Thomistic thinking" simply refers to the general agreement with the basic metaphysics, epistemology, and natural theology of thirteenth century Christian philosopher and theologian Thomas Aquinas. This is certainly one thing that makes SES unique as our co-founder Dr. Norman Geisler intentionally wove his Thomistic thinking throughout our integrated approach to theology, philosophy, and apologetics.

As such, our Thomistic thinking largely forms the foundation from which we do natural theology and much of our philosophical apologetics. In addition, it provides a very strong supportive structure for natural law, hermeneutics, and more which enables us to coherently speak truth to the cultural issues we face today. As Dr. Geisler has said,

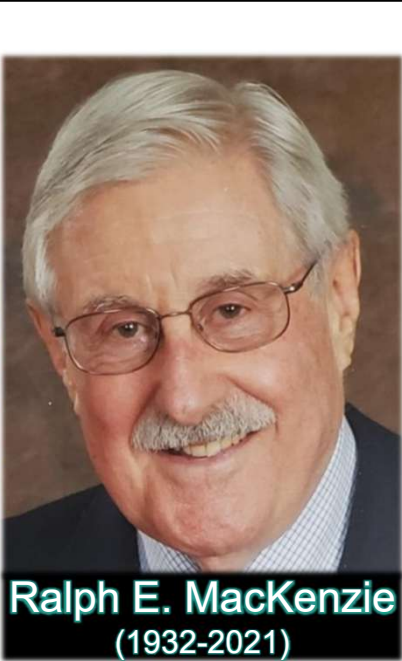
"As a matter of fact, I find Aquinas's philosophy to be a helpful prolegomena for evangelical theology. After all, Aquinas defended metaphysical realism, the correspondence view of truth, propositional revelation, classical apologetics, and classical theism—all of which are helpful to defending the evangelical positions. Indeed, one has to search hard, if not in vain, to find an evangelical philosopher who can match Aquinas in these areas."



**Norman L. Geisler**  
(1932-2019)



**ROMAN CATHOLICS and EVANGELICALS**  
AGREEMENTS and DIFFERENCES  
NORMAN L. GEISLER and RALPH E. MACKENZIE



**Ralph E. MacKenzie**  
(1932-2021)



Richard Bennett  
(1938-2019)

