

## *∞ 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 ∞

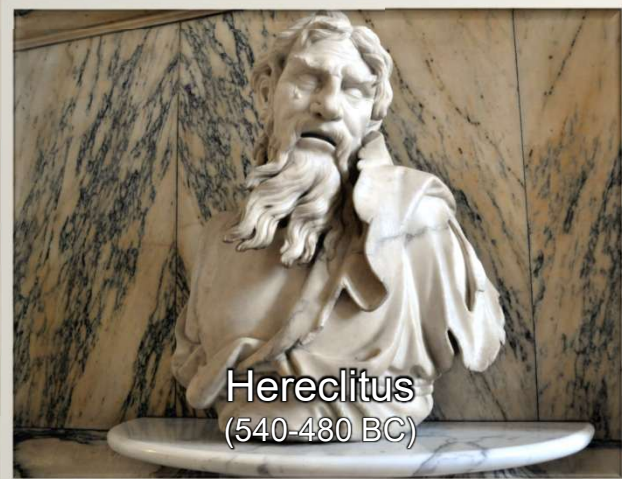
- *denies of the possibility of knowledge altogether*
- *Absolute skepticism comes in several types.*



## ∞ 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?*

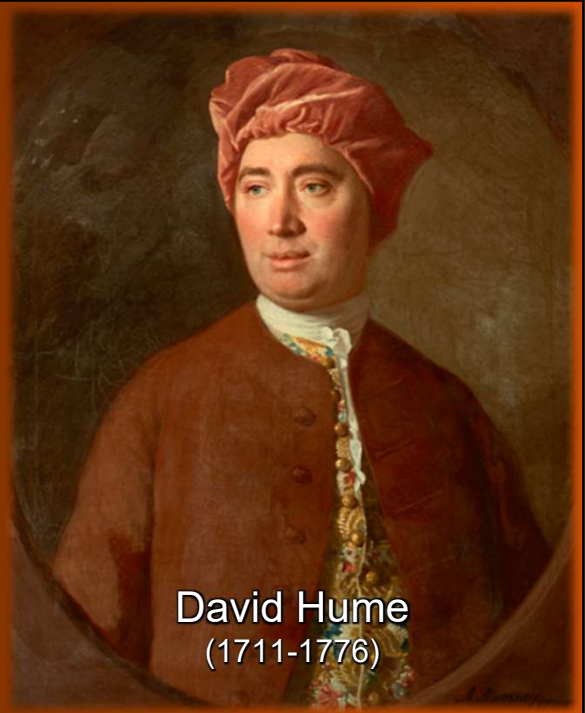


## ∞ Philosophical Skepticism ∞

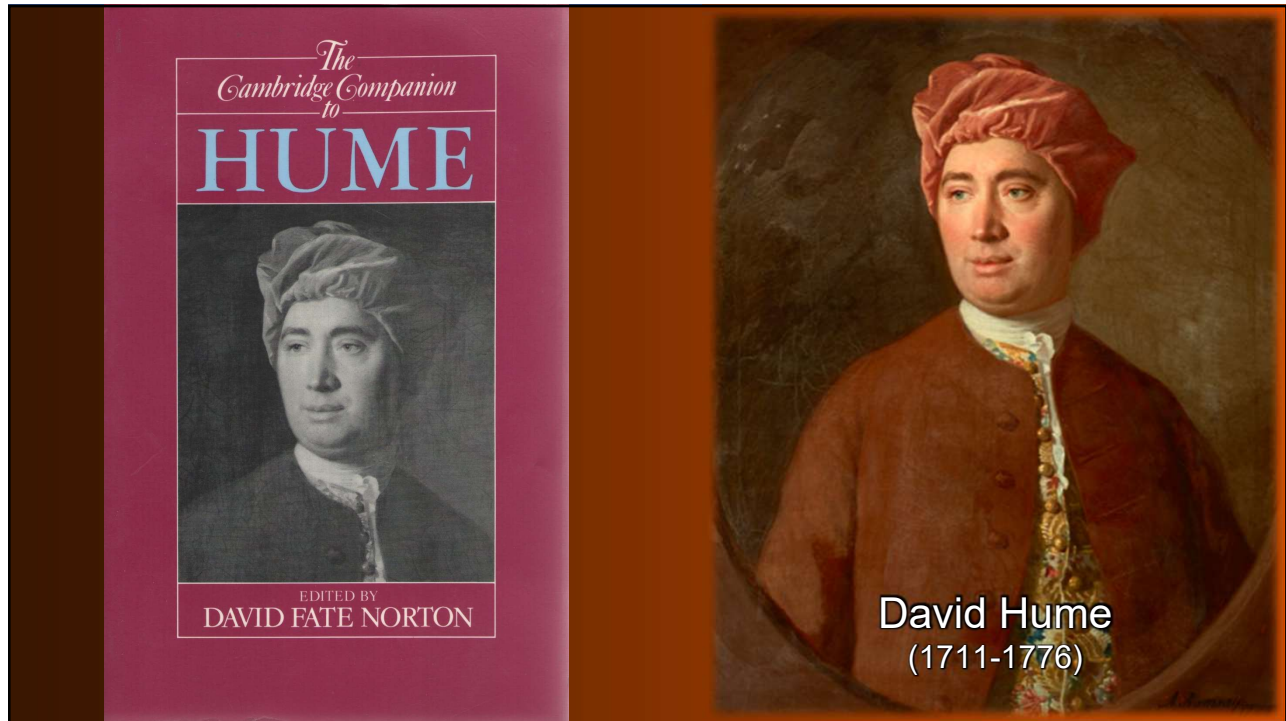
➤ *The tendency of some philosophers to deny or doubt the more cherished philosophical claims.*

- *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

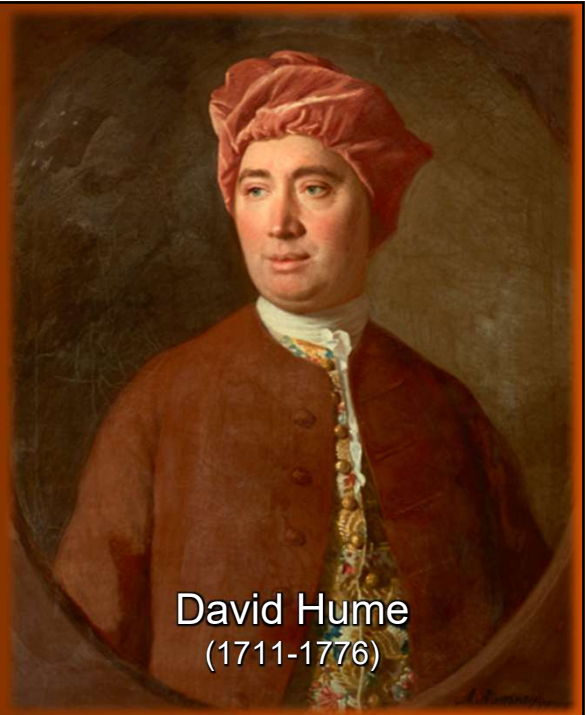


David Hume  
(1711-1776)



## Philosophical Skepticism

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

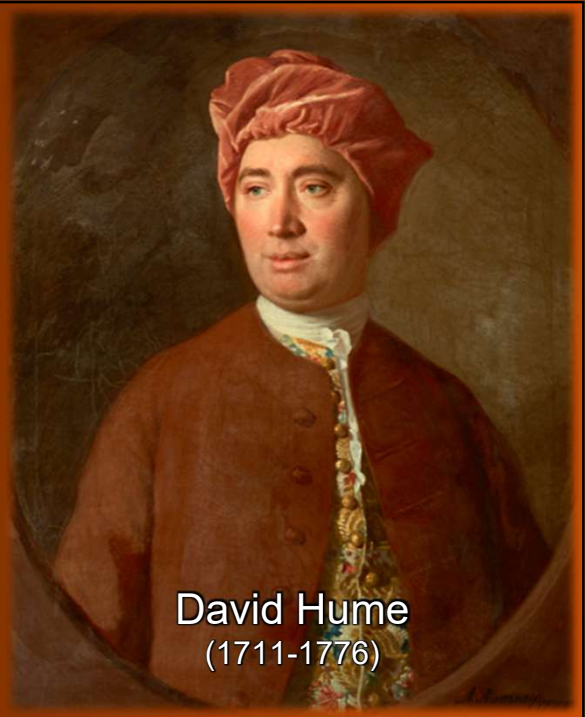


David Hume  
(1711-1776)



## Philosophical Skepticism

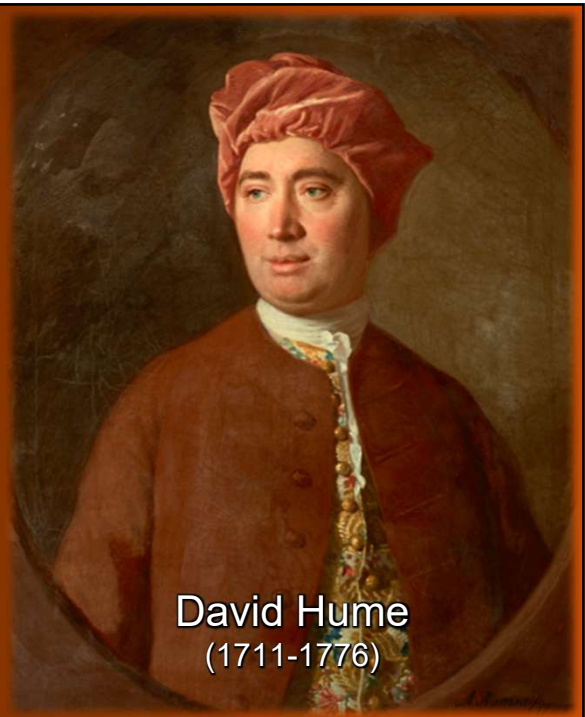
*Though Hume was a skeptic, it is still accurate to call him an empiricist, for he believed that all knowledge comes through experience.*



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.*



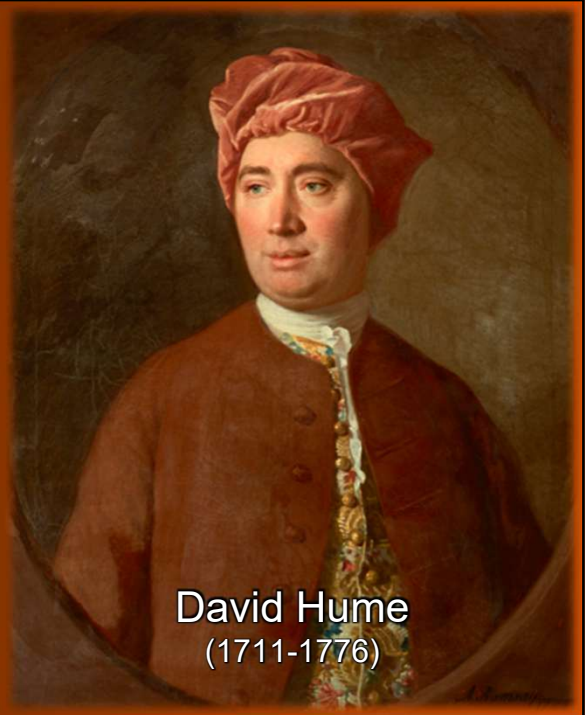
David Hume  
(1711-1776)

# Philosophical Skepticism

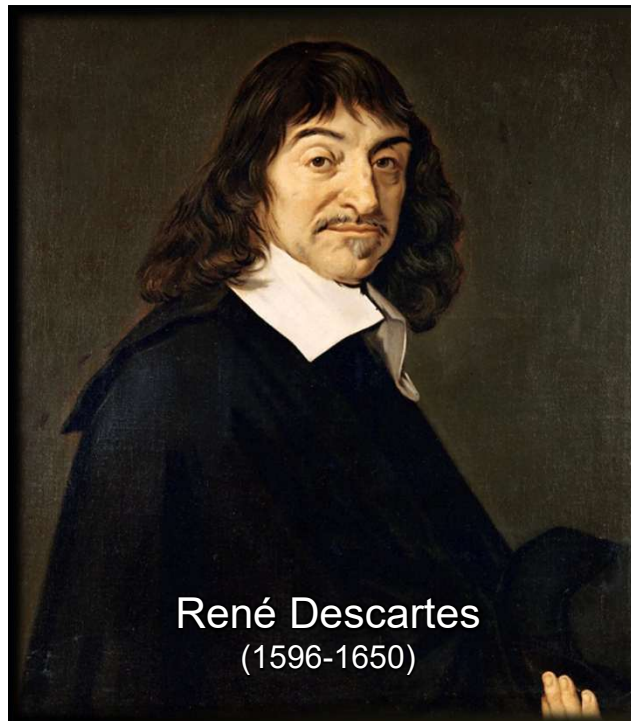
*miracles*

*the design argument for  
the existence of God*

*the problem of evil*



David Hume  
(1711-1776)



René Descartes  
(1596-1650)

# Methodological Skepticism

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