

## Week Three Agenda

### Rene Descartes

Read Descartes Meditation I here: <http://www.classicallibrary.org/descartes/meditations/4.htm>

In your groups answer the following questions. Each person should turn in answers. Write a full paragraph for each question. Your total response should be 350 words. Submit them in class for credit.  
5 points

- 1. Explain in your own words Paragraph 1. What is Descartes setting out to do, and why is he doing it now?**
- 2. In Paragraphs 2 and 3 Descartes says he is removing the foundation and bringing down an edifice. What is he referring to and why do you think he is doing it?**
- 3. In Paragraph 4, Descartes considers that he might be acting like a mad man? Do you think he is? Why or why not?**
- 4. In Paragraph 5, why does Descartes think he might be dreaming? Is his argument convincing? Could you be dreaming you are doing philosophy homework right now?**
- 5. In Paragraph 8 Descartes mentions math like Geometry and Arithmetic. What does he say about them and how is this similar to Plato's views about math vs sense knowledge?**
- 6. In Paragraph 12, Descartes describes a "malignant demon". What does he imagine this demon could be doing to him?**

## Epistemology

### Read

[http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/socialsciences/ppecorino/INTRO\\_TEXT/Chapter%205%20Epistemology/CONTENTS.htm](http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/socialsciences/ppecorino/INTRO_TEXT/Chapter%205%20Epistemology/CONTENTS.htm)

1. What is Epistemology?
2. What is our working definition of knowledge?
3. Theories of Truth a) Correspondence b) Pragmatic c) Coherence
4. Types of Knowledge (Warrant) a) Logical b) Semantic c) Systemic d) Empirical
5. Rationalism - Plato, Rene Descartes.
6. Descartes' Methodological Skepticism, Three Skeptical Arguments in Meditation 1.

Optical Illusions: <http://brainden.com/color-illusions.htm#prettyPhoto>

<http://www.playbuzz.com/jeffd/this-optical-illusions-test-will-literally-melt-your-brain>

Are you a brain in a vat? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ldd9HR0xxAs>

Solipsism. DO ONLY I EXIST?

Read Meditations Two <http://www.classicallibrary.org/descartes/meditations/5.htm>

Listen along <https://librivox.org/meditations-on-first-philosophy-by-rene-descartes/>

7. Cogito Ergo Sum
  8. Proof of God Meditations Three P. 22-24 <http://www.classicallibrary.org/descartes/meditations/6.htm>
  9. Reconstructing knowledge from reason alone.
  - 10) Criticisms of Descartes
- PowerPoint Rationalism and Empiricism

Quiz – Descartes

**View the film, Abre Los Ojos, in class.**

**Answer the following questions for Abre Los Ojos. Please type your responses. Your total response should be 300 words minimum . 5 Points.**

- 1) Which scene do you first realize that Cesar's perceptions may not be reality?**
- 2) As you are watching the film, make a list of the perceptions Cesar has that turn out to be illusions.**
- 3) At the end of the film, can you say you know what is really going on (what is the real reality?)**
- 4) Compare and contrast Descartes' skeptical arguments (Dream, and Evil Demon) with the film.**
- 5) Is Descartes correct that Cesar can know some things whether his consciousness is in touch with reality or not? Explain.**