

SLIDE	NOTES
1	<b>TITLE</b> In this module, we begin dealing with our first metaphysical primacy issue (God/Reality), * We are adding a tool called an Ontological Framework to our toolbox.
2	<b>DEFINITIONS</b> Definitions for Ontology, and Ontological Frameworks
3	Three different frameworks which give rise to three different states of existence. <b>Anim1:</b> Golfing <b>Anim2:</b> Kayaking <b>Anim3:</b> Snowboarding  <b>Q: What happens if you mix up the Ontological Frameworks?</b>
4	* You drive your golf cart down the river rapids * You try hitting your golf ball with a snowboard as you sweat in your winter clothing, * Your golf clubs become a heavy weight on your back pulling you over backwards on the ski run.  <b>Q: So which Ontological Framework should Eternalism Study?</b>
5	The Earth <b>Anim1:</b> The Universe <b>Anim2:</b> Eternalism's Ontological Framework <b>Anim3:</b> We want analyze the ultimate framework: The Entire Universe. Universe = "all existing matter and space considered as a whole" (google definition)
6	Quotes describing the comprehensive claim of Mormonism.  <b>Anim1:</b> <b>Quote</b> President Brigham Young <b>Anim2:</b> <b>Quote</b> President Brigham Young <b>Anim3:</b> <b>Quote</b> President Brigham Young <b>Anim4:</b> <b>Quote</b> President Brigham Young
7	There are 3 competing frameworks, only 1 of which Eternalism declares to be true. We are going to go through each of them.  <b>Q: What do you think about learning about competing or false philosophies?</b>  <b>Anim1:</b> <b>Quote</b> Leonard Peikoff <b>Anim2:</b> <b>Quote</b> President Brigham Young <b>Anim3:</b> <b>Quote</b> President Brigham Young  I am no longer afraid of Mormonism not being able to hold up to all assaults. After so many years of it holding up I no longer doubt asking if it is true, but instead ask how does this work?
8	Explanation of the items discussed in each framework (God, Man, Universe).  <b>Anim1:</b> <b>Traditional Christian, Judaic, Islamic:</b> First we'll look at the 3 Monotheistic Religions <b>Anim2:</b> The universe is pictured as a box <b>Q: Where do they put God?</b> <b>Anim3:</b> Outside of reality (God outside the box)

	<p>Anim4: God being outside of reality, he then creates reality "ex nihilo" (out of nothing)  Q: Where do they put Man?  Anim5: Inside the box  Anim6: This is what we call "The absolutism of God" or "Primacy of Consciousness"</p> <p>Anim7: <b>Greeks, Pagans:</b> Next let's analyze the Mythology of the Greeks, Pagans  Anim8: They too have the universe is pictured as a box  Q: Where do they put God?  (anim9) Inside the box (as part of reality).  Q: Where do they put Man?  Anim10 Inside the box  Anim11 This is what we call "The absolutism of Reality" or "Primacy of Existence"  Anim12 God being inside of reality, he then creates reality "ex materia" (out of already existing element)</p> <p>Anim13 <b>Eastern Mysticism:</b> Next let's analyze Eastern Mysticism  Anim14 They too have the universe is pictured as a box  Q: Where do they put God?  Anim15 God is the box.  Q: Where do they put Man?  Anim16 Inside the box  Anim17 This is what we call Pantheism, which doesn't have a consistent set of Primacy Issues. (reincarnation, progressing, digressing, etc.) This is what we call "mixed premises".</p> <p>Now comes some key questions:  Q: In "God Outside The Box" model, what is man's incentive?  (anim18) Get out of the box. The box is painful, restrictive, and keeping us from God.  (anim19) This leads to Asceticism and Transcendence of the great Apostasy (self denial of the evils of existence, Monks heading out into the wilderness to live in solitude away from the evil world. Doctrine of celibacy, Popes and priests mortifying the flesh (whipping themselves to become like Christ), etc.</p> <p>Q: In "God Inside The Box" model, what is man's incentive?  Anim20: To get along with the box.  Anim21: Learn the rules of reality so you can master the environment and progress. Abide and Abound is our course motto.</p> <p>Q: In the "God is The Box" model, what is man's incentive?  Anim22: To literally lose oneself. Have no more personal identity and become physically one with the box.  Anim23: Extreme oblivion or Nirvana and "Poof" self-identity goes away.</p> <p>Q: Which model does the Restoration follow?</p>
9	<p>* <b>God Inside The Box:</b> Restoration...God inside of reality along with man. All the doctrines of the Restoration Belong here  * God Outside of reality is essentially the Abomination Joseph Smith was told about. All the doctrines of the great Apostasy belong here. A lot of logical contradictions also crop up. Such as Supernatural miracles, and a God who creates Evil is evil.  Q: Why have an atonement instead of just creating a reality that didn't need it? Or just change the rules of reality as needed? Etc.</p> <p>Anim: Quote Donald Bloesch...God outside the box.</p>
10	<p>Q: Did you know Joseph Smith said there was a "great secret" associated with the Restoration? What do you think it is?  Anim1: King Follet Discourse (3 months before Martyrdom).  * 1st - God is a real, physical man...a person in the box like us.</p>

	<p>Anim2: 2nd - The great secret...God wasn't always God! He was once like us!</p> <p>Anim3: Quote Lorenzo Snow</p> <p>Anim4: Quote Orson Pratt</p>
11	<p>Let's talk about Opposition in all things</p> <p>Anim1: Quote Joseph Fielding McConkie</p> <p>You can't declare something to be true without picking a fight with anything that is its opposite.</p> <p>Anim2: Quote Leonard Peikoff</p> <p>True or False is at least consistent. Both have a relationship to reality. The arbitrary or mixed premises is something you can't really deal with.</p>
12	<p>So let's practice using our tools to analyze which of the 3 Frameworks do not violate the axioms.</p> <p>Anim1: <b>God Outside The Box</b> violates the existence and identity axioms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Creatio ex nihilo = existence created out of non-existence</li> <li>* Supernatural Miracles = no identity...not based on law</li> </ul> <p>Anim2: <b>RED X:</b> Being Philosophers, Theologians, and Consistent Thinkers we cannot accept an ontology that has contradictions.</p> <p>Anim3: <b>God Is The Box</b> also violates the existence and identity axioms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Existence = consciousness</li> </ul> <p>Anim4: Contradictions (Yin and Yang) are embraced = no identity</p> <p>Anim5: Being Philosophers, Theologians, and Consistent Thinkers we cannot accept an ontology that EMBRACES contradictions. Mixed premises are not consistent and cannot be analyzed as being true or false. The Eastern Mystics seek for Oblivion (or Nirvana), so we will give that to them and not discuss their contradictions in this course. The rest of this course will analyze the primacy issues from the context of The Restoration compared to the Apostasy.</p> <p>The willful "God Outside the Box" leaves everyone interpreting God in their own way. This was the trouble that Joseph Smith experienced, when he ran into various preachers all describing the attributes of God differently.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* In the God outside the box the question becomes "Which version of God?"</li> <li>* It took a personal visit from God to show Joseph Smith the correct version of God is in the form of a man just like us "God Inside the Box".</li> </ul> <p>Eternalism will continue to develop the truth that you don't get to choose between these ontologies. Reality is absolute, and you only put yourself in danger by falsely choosing one of the other false ontologies.</p>
13	<p><b>Q: Eternalism is both a Philosophy and Theology course. Which has primacy?</b></p> <p>Anim1: It depends on your Ontology.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Those who claim it is "God Outside the Box", Theology has primacy.</li> <li>* Those who claim it is "God Inside the Box", Philosophy has primacy.</li> </ul> <p>Eternalism claims both</p> <p>Anim2: Quote (Elder John A. Widtsoe)</p> <p>The gospel is the philosophy that explains man in the universe.</p> <p>Anim3: Quote (Elder John A. Widtsoe)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* God exists in nature, laws of nature cannot be transcended.</li> </ul>
14	<p><b>Q: Who can describe the problem of evil?</b></p> <p>Anim1: Quote David L. Paulsen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* If God created everything ex nihilo (out of nothing), then He is the one primarily responsible for the evil we see around us. Logically it follows that anyone who creates evil must themselves be evil.</li> </ul>

	<p>* A second contradiction arising from the problem of evil involves the atonement of Christ. Why would an absolute God, who created reality from nothing according to his own will, and consequently could change reality according to His own will, require His son to be murdered to pay the price for evil doings of everyone else?</p> <p>* Doesn't an atonement seem unnecessary and cruel for an absolute God who could just change reality however he wanted to? Why require the murder of His son, to cover a problem He Himself created, and could will to be otherwise?</p> <p><b>Anim2:</b> <b>Quote</b> President Brigham Young</p> <p>* Eternalism's answer to the problem of evil, is that the apparent contradiction only exists within a false <i>God-outside-the-box</i> ontology where God is declared to be absolute.</p> <p>* In the <i>God-inside-the-box</i> ontology of Eternalism, reality is absolute and therefore God didn't create evil. Evil being uncreated and in the nature of reality itself is how God can be blameless.</p> <p>* Eternal laws being part of reality itself, independent of God, explains the need for justice to be paid with Christ's atonement.</p>
15	Questions? Rating?