

SLIDE	NOTES
1	<b>TITLE</b>
2	<p><b>Quote</b> Joseph Smith</p> <p>Joseph Smith described the crucial nature of the first primacy issue...God-Reality. Getting this primacy issue wrong causes increasing deviation in successive dependent philosophical branches.</p>
3	<p><b>Quote</b> Aristotle...</p> <p>As we move to Epistemology, we start to see increasing divide in perspective on the primacy issues.</p> <p><b>Anim:</b> <b>Quote</b> Elder Uchtdorf...Describes how it is more than just about error. Happiness or Misery is at stake.</p>
4	<p><b>EPISTEMOLOGY DEFINITION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Our knowledge is summarized by words. Words are like a placeholder representing the universal concept.</li> <li>* Although a single, universal concept may be represented various words from many different languages, all words assume a specific definition which differentiates the conceptual meaning of one concept from another.</li> </ul> <p><b>Anim1:</b> <b>Quote</b> Brigham Young</p> <p><b>Anim2:</b> Read Definitions (Reason, Rational)</p> <p><b>Anim3:</b> <b>Quote</b> Ayn RAND...Evade if you like, but you can't avoid your own nature and means of survival. Avoidance of obvious logical contradictions puts your own survival at risk.</p> <p><b>Anim4:</b> <b>Quote</b> Brigham Young...Testimony that Mormonism is true philosophically. Mormonism obeys reason.</p>
5	<p>Now that we are learning these tools, we need to apply them to all aspects of our life. Start treating issues as a crime scene investigation...Looking for Philosophical and Theological crimes.</p> <p><b>Quote</b> Ayn Rand</p> <p><b>Q: What do you think of the following crime scenes?</b></p> <p><b>Anim1:</b> Self refuting "both open and closed at the same time".</p> <p><b>Anim2:</b> Stolen Concept "using a sign to say no signs allowed"</p> <p><b>Anim3:</b> Self refuting "both up and down at the same time"</p>
6	<p><b>REASON - FAITH</b></p> <p><b>Q: What do you think is the attitude one must take toward reason if you chose an unreasonable (out of the box) God?</b></p> <p><b>Anim1:</b> <b>Quote</b> Evangelical Essentials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Lovers of mystery...warning about things that are too clear.</li> <li>* If you put Faith over Reason you just lost agency. You must blindly do what God tells you (which then begs the question: Whose God?)</li> </ul> <p><b>Anim2:</b> <b>Quote</b> Martin Luther...Straight-up attack on reason.</p> <p><b>Anim3:</b> <b>Quote</b> Martin Luther</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Notice Luther's use of the words self-evident in his statement attacking reason. It is a philosophical and theological crime that Luther both attacks reason, yet extensively uses it when it suits his needs.</li> <li>* Luther came to reject several teachings and practices of the Medieval Catholic Church. Most important of these was the sale of indulgences which were certificates someone could purchase with money from the church to reduce the punishment for sins committed by themselves or their loved ones. When it came to attacking the Catholic church in his day, with his "95 Theses" or "Disputation on the Power of Indulgences", Luther was more than happy to employ reason (reportedly nailing his Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany)</li> <li>* But when reason was used to challenge his unreasonable "<i>God-outside-the-box</i>" beliefs, Luther switches allegiance and derides reason.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Anim4:</b> Quote Elder Bruce R. McConkie</p> <p><b>Anim5:</b> Quote Joseph Fielding McConkie</p> <p>* Stolen concept: You can't both claim to know something AND claim knowing something is impossible.</p> <p>* Undercutting consciousness axiom.</p>
7	<p><b>RED:</b></p> <p><b>Anim1:</b> Quote Soren Kierkegaard...Go against your reason and observation and accept the absurd.</p> <p><b>Anim2:</b> Quote Evangelical essentials...Feeling takes over BOTH your mind (knowledge) and actions (doing).</p> <p><b>Anim3:</b> Quote Blaise Pascal</p> <p><b>Anim4:</b> In other words, the heart takes over, turning the brain off, and people become emotional basket cases subjectively letting their emotions take them for a ride.</p> <p>* When your emotions govern (based on what?) they become willfully destructive. With Emotions free to run wild, it becomes "The Tyranny of Oprah" (whoever has the largest passion on the emotion scale wins)</p>
8	<p><b>GREEN</b></p> <p><b>Anim1:</b> Quote Elder Dallin H. Oaks</p> <p><b>Anim2:</b> Quote President Russel M. Nelson</p> <p><b>Anim3:</b> Quote D&amp;C 8:2-2...Mind listed first (not by accident)</p> <p><b>Anim4:</b> Quote D&amp;C 9:8-9</p> <p>When your mind governs (based on correct reason) then your emotions become lawful, valid alive, and beautiful.</p> <p><b>Anim5:</b> Quote Joseph Smith</p> <p>* Made it clear that when it comes to revelation that the mind and heart work in conjunction with one another, with mind having primacy.</p> <p>* The emotional faculty is dependent upon the rational faculty for its emotive content.</p> <p>* In short, there can be no emotional response without mental content of some sort for the heart to respond to.</p>
9	<p><b>LAWFULNESS vs WILLFULNESS</b>...Consistency demands allegiance.</p> <p><b>Q: Why these Epistemological primacy issues?</b></p> <p>It is about the role of evidence, truth, and lawfulness in gaining knowledge of reality.</p> <p><b>Anim1:</b> Primacy of Existence is like <b>The Lion King</b> - An almighty being who lives in a REAL Jungle but has dominion over all the other less-advanced creatures.</p> <p><b>Anim2:</b> This is our Ontological Framework of "<i>God-inside-the-box</i>" where we are all part of the big, cosmic jungle, with a rational faith guiding us.</p> <p><b>Anim3:</b> Primacy of Consciousness is like OZ - The all-powerful magician pulling all the mystical, magic strings from behind the curtain.</p> <p><b>Anim4:</b> This is the Ontological Framework of "<i>God-outside-the-box</i>" where we are stuck in a box and want to get out with a blind, mystical faith guiding us.</p> <p>Your Epistemology follows directly from your metaphysics.</p> <p><b>Anim5:</b> If <b>Reality is Absolute</b>, Reason is our means of understanding it (not creating it). Our Mind governs and "bridles" our Passions.</p>

	<p><b>Anim6:</b> If <b>Consciousness is Absolute</b>, the Absolutism of a God (somehow outside of reality) requires you to suspend your reason and "just believe" taking things on Blind Faith without any observational evidence.  * An irrational faith requires your "unbridled passions" to make up for a lack logical grounding.</p> <p><b>Anim7:</b> <b>With the Primacy of Existence</b>  * <b>Correct Principles Govern</b>...Governance is easy because everyone governs themselves according to objective laws of reality.  * Our actions are guided by our ability to think long range and in principles. Our emotions are a lawful, valid response to value judgments made by the mind.</p> <p><b>Anim8:</b> <b>With the Primacy of Consciousness</b>  * <b>Inner Emotions Govern</b>...Everyone claims Truth through a Blind Faith in a <b>Mystical Revelation</b> that they don't understand, but feel passionately about, based on a belief that "God can do absolutely anything" independent of the Laws of Reality.  * This is <b>ungovernable</b>. Everyone governs themselves differently according to their own inner emotions telling them their own subjective interpretation of God's will.</p>
10	<p>HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT (Your First Philosophical Walk)  Before next time, list ordinary things that annoy you.</p>
11	<p>Questions? Rating?</p>