

SLIDE	NOTES
1	<p>TITLE</p> <p>In this module we will discuss various proofs for our Philosophical Primacy Issues.</p>
2	<p>There are all kinds of proofs: Direct Proofs, Indirect Proofs, Mathematical Proofs, etc.</p> <p>Anim1: In Eternalism we are going to focus on 3 proofs: Existential, Philosophical, Theological</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * These proofs are three witnesses as a check on each other. * Don't take these lightly. Realize you are totally dependent on these. <p>Anim2: Existential Proof = Exposing reality</p> <p>Anim3: Philosophical Proof = Showing coherence (non-contradiction) of ideas according to the axioms.</p> <p>Anim4: Theological Proof = Moroni's promise, Confirmation by the Power of the Holy Ghost, Holy Spirit</p>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The first of three that we will discuss is an existential proof. * Imagine a pudding that might be laced with arsenic. <p>Q: How do you prove it?</p> <p>Anim1: A scientific Proof</p> <p>Anim2: An existential proof</p> <p>Anim3: Either way the proof exists in the pudding, you just have to find it. The objective truth is just sitting there waiting for anyone to discover it.</p> <p>Anim4: You may have positive thinking saying "I believe there is no poison in it so it can't hurt me", but in the end Reality has the final say.</p>
4	<p>Existential Proof</p> <p>An existential proof is letting Reality have its say.</p> <p>Anim1: Reality is the "Alpha Male"...The 800 lb Gorilla that can't be ignored.</p> <p>Technically both the Lab and "Eating It" are forms of "Existential Proof" (proving existence)...In the first case you are using a Mass Spectrometer to taste the pudding, in the second case you are just trying it out using your body's own physiology.</p>
5	<p>In your homework assignment (Your First Philosophical Walk) you listed the ordinary things that annoy you. When David Call taught the course at BYU here were some common things.</p> <p>Anim1-13</p>
6	<p>This Philosophical walk with the list of frustrations is PROOF that reality has primacy, not consciousness. If Consciousness had primacy, reality would bend to your will.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The vending machine would always work. * All stoplights would be green. * Toast would never burn, etc. <p>Frustrations means you are not aligned with reality. Reality always wins. Knowing that Reality has Primacy makes your life so much better. You learn to Abide by the Rules and Abound.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * You learn how to change your actions so as to not burn your toast. * You learn to arrive a bit early and avoid the long lunch hour rush lines, etc.
7	<p>Philosophical Proof</p> <p>Next, we describe the Second Proof: Philosophical Proof</p> <p>Anim1: Think of your mind as a temple. Where you don't allow contradictory garbage to linger.</p>

	<p>Anim2: In an earlier module we described the 3 invincible axioms. These axioms are the guardians to the temple of your mind.</p> <p>Anim3: Quote Ayn Rand This is where the Philosophical Proofs come in. You will find that the Mystics always break one or more of the axioms at the same time their every word or thought upholds the axioms.</p>
8	<p>Theological Proof Last of the 3 proofs is what we call the Theological Proof.</p> <p>Anim1: Quote Elder Dallin H. Oaks</p> <p>Anim2: Not all proofs are equal. It is not like Baseball where you get 3 strikes. * With Existential Proofs it is "One Strike and You are Out". * We then move on to Philosophical Proofs only after existential evidence. If anything Epistemologically tries to undercut any of the 3 Axioms in its claim to truth, you know the bottom of the barrel has fallen out from the proof. * For Eternalists, the Theological Proof of the Restored Gospel is a light that shines itself on the other two proofs.</p> <p>Anim3: Here is the three-tier primacy among the proofs themselves. * A Theological proof (Tier-3) * Reveals without contradictions (Tier-2) * Something real (Tier-1)</p>
9	<p>* Another way of saying this is that Eternalism's Ontological Framework gives primacy to existence. * Contrasting Primacy of Consciousness with Primacy of Existence:</p> <p>Anim1: On the left the great law maker Anim2: On the Right the Great law abider Anim3: On the left...All Powerful OZ...The man behind the curtain magically pulling the strings of reality. Anim4: On the Right...Almighty Lion King. The most powerful being in the jungle, who still lives within the jungle with all of the realities that implies. Anim5: The left requires conformity with someone's version of God's will Anim6: On the right requires conformity with Eternal Laws</p> <p>God outside time and space? Use your proofs. A mystical, <i>God-outside-the-box</i> doesn't make sense and fails all proofs.</p>
10	<p>Quote Mysticism <i>Would our proofs convince a Mystic (someone who believes in consciousness outside the box)?</i></p> <p>The mystic would make the following two responses: Anim1: Your knowledge of reality is too limited. You just don't understand Plato's supernatural realm. Anim2: You are lacking Faith in mystical visions, supernatural feelings, heavenly manifestations etc.</p>
11	<p>When it comes to logic and reason...The burden of proof is on the one who makes assertions.</p> <p>Anim1: <i>What is wrong with this statement?</i> Mystics make all kinds of wild claims, attempting to place the burden of proof on you to show they are false.</p> <p>Anim2: Realists know that that Proof requires evidence. A non-existent entity leaves no proof.</p> <p>Anim3: For example...A mouse, leaves proof in the form of droppings and bites out of cheese.</p>

	<p>If someone claims the existence of Gremlins, the burden of proof is on them to show the evidence.</p> <p>Anim4: Mystics believe their mystical claims trump any existential proof. The rival clan from the Red Barrel of Monkeys is just itching to get into the Temple of your mind. What most people don't realize is that if the Alpha male gets in, it is impossible to keep all the rest of the clan out too.</p> <p>So what do you do with Mystics? The answer is the same for everyone...Give them the evidence and let them decide.</p> <p>Anim5: Quote Leonard Peikoff</p>
12	<p>The scale of evidence affects our beliefs, opinions and judgements regarding truth.</p> <p>Anim1: Slight Evidence enters the realm of POSSIBILITY. Anim2: Strong Evidence puts us in the realm of PROBABLE Anim3: Incontestable evidence (self-evident) puts you in the realm of CERTAINTY</p> <p>Anim4: To the left of the scale (no evidence) is point 0 = MEANINGLESS or ARBITRARY Anim5: To the right of the scale (incontestable evidence) = PERFECT KNOWLEDGE You know something is true.</p> <p>Anim6: Even a slight bit of evidence pulls it out of meaningless into the possible Anim7: Strong evidence places it beyond a reasonable doubt Anim8: Once the evidence is overwhelming, it becomes knowledge, without need to doubt.</p> <p>General Legal Terms (from weakest to strongest): Reasonable suspicion Reasonable to believe Probable cause for arrest Credible evidence Substantial evidence Preponderance of evidence Clear and convincing evidence Beyond a reasonable doubt (strictest standard of proof)</p> <p>Anim9: Does God use proofs or does He require blind belief? Consider the following: Anim10: Quote Alma 32:33-34 Anim11: Quote Malachi 3:10 Anim12: Quote John 7:17 Anim13: Quote And so on...See case study 3</p>
13	<p>Questions? Rating?</p>