**Spring, 2008**

- **Professor James C. Klagge**
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  - Office Hours: M 2-3, W 3-4, Th 10-11 and by appointment.

- **Lectures:**
  - Mondays & Wednesdays 12:20-1:10pm.
  - McBryde 100
  - Slides posted at [www.phil.vt.edu/Jklagge/Homepage.htm](http://www.phil.vt.edu/Jklagge/Homepage.htm)

- **Discussions:**
  - Fridays, with a TA, at time/place on schedule.
  - Interaction and grading.
  - **GET TO KNOW YOUR TA!**
    - He or she is your friend!

**Discussion Sects:**

- CRN: 14490 8-8:50 Shultz 105 Curtis
- CRN: 14484 9:05-9:55 Shultz 105 Curtis
- CRN: 14491 9:05-9:55 Shultz 109 David
- CRN: 14485 10:10-11 Hutcheson 209 David
- CRN: 14492 10:10-11 Gym 219 Curtis
- CRN: 14486 11:15-12:05 Squires 236 David
- CRN: 14489 11:15-12:05 Squires 234 Ashley
- CRN: 14488 12:20-1:10 McBryde 302 Ryan
- CRN: 14496 12:20-1:10 Shultz 105 Ashley
- CRN: 14483 1:25-2:15 Shultz 105 Ashley
- CRN: 14487 1:25-2:15 McBryde 316 Ryan
- CRN: 14482 2:30-3:20 MajWms 334 Ryan

*Always bring your books with the assigned readings for that day to class!!*
What is Philosophy?
• “What is…?”
• Define the following:
  • Game
  • Murder
  • Yellow
  • Chair

What is a chair?

What is a chair?

Examples of Philosophical Issues:
• Do you know how old you are?

What is Philosophy?
• Define “chair” again.
• What is Philosophy?
• Let’s start with some examples.

How old is the Earth?
5 Billion years old?
6000 years old?
Archbishop James Ussher (1581-1656)

Earth was created in 4004 B.C. on Sunday, October 23rd at 9 am!

Archbishop James Ussher (1581-1656)

Adam and Eve were driven out of Eden on Monday, November 10th!

What about ancient fossils?

Cambrian trilobites—approximately 570 million years old.

Philip Henry Gosse (1810-1888)
English naturalist

Omphalos: An Attempt to Untie the Geological Knot 1857

Examples of Philosophical Issues:
• Do you know how old you are?
• Are you the same person who registered for this course?
Is life after death possible?

What would make a being after your death BE you?

Examples of Philosophical Issues:

- Do you know how old you are?
- Are you the same person who registered for this course?
- Could computers think?

1996: Kasparov defeats Deep Blue 4 – 2 (3 – 1 – 2)

1997: “Deep Blue” vs. Kasparov

IBM’s “Deep Blue”
Born in 1985

“The Hand of God.”

Garry Kasparov
Born in 1963 in Azerbaijan.

1997: “Deep Blue” vs. Kasparov

Deep Blue wins match 3.5 – 2.5
2 games for Deep Blue
1 game for Kasparov &
3 draws

Kasparov v. Deep Junior
2003: 3-3 tie
Philosophy

Philia + Sophia = Love × Wisdom = Love of Wisdom

Philosophy
• Not Science: Conceptual, not Empirical
• Not Math: Informal Reasoning, not limited.
• Not Religion: Open to all possibilities.

Method: Ask questions, consider possibilities, look for exceptions, try out ideas, argue, look at both sides of an issue.

Socrates
470-399 BC in Athens

Plato
427-347 BC in Athens
Student and friend of Socrates
Wrote the “Meno”

Readings for next class:
• First half of the “Meno”—pp. 58 to 80d on p. 70, in Five Dialogues, by Plato.
• Introductory Chapter 1, pp. 3-7, in What Does It All Mean? by Thomas Nagel.