What is Philosophy?

• “What is...?  
• Define the following: 
  • Game 
  • Murder 
  • Yellow 
  • Chair

What is a chair?

Always bring your books with the assigned readings for that day to class!!!
**What is a chair?**

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

**Examples of Philosophical Issues:**
- Do you know how old you are?
  - How could you prove it?
  - Could those things be wrong?
  - What does it take to know something?

**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 Edenon Monday, November 10th!
Archbishop James Ussher (1581-1656)

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

Philip Henry Gosse (1810-1888)
English naturalist

Omphalos:
An Attempt to Untie the Geological Knot
1857

What about ancient fossils?

Cambrian trilobites—approximately 570 million years old.

Examples of Philosophical Issues:
- Do you know how old you are?
- Are you the same person who registered for this course?
- Have you changed at all since you registered?
- Do those changes make you a different person?
- What would it take to be different/same?

Examples of Philosophical Issues:
- Do you know how old you are?
- Are you the same person who registered for this course?
- Could computers think?
- Can other animals think?
- What does it take to think?
- What can computers do?

Is life after death possible?

What would make a being after your death BE you?
1996: Kasparov defeats Deep Blue 4 – 2 (3 – 1 – 2)

1997: “Deep Blue” vs. Kasparov

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

IBM’s
“The Hand of God.”

Kasparov: Born in 1963
in Azerbaijan.

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.
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.