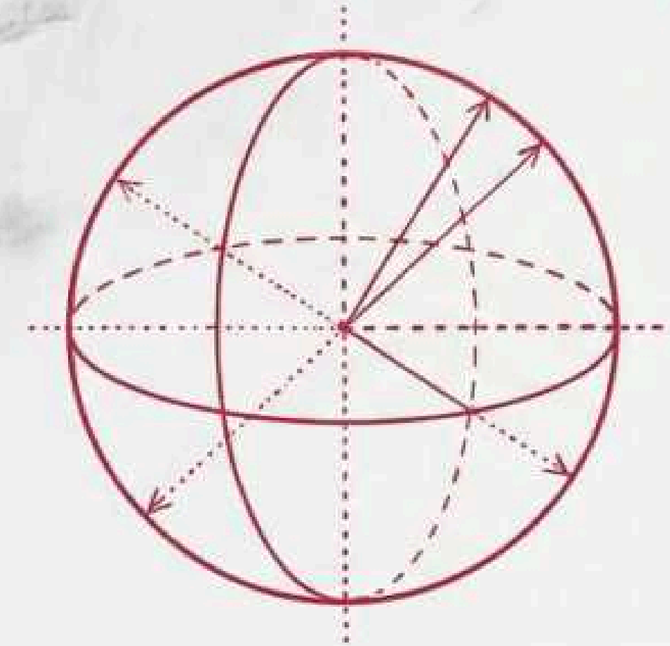
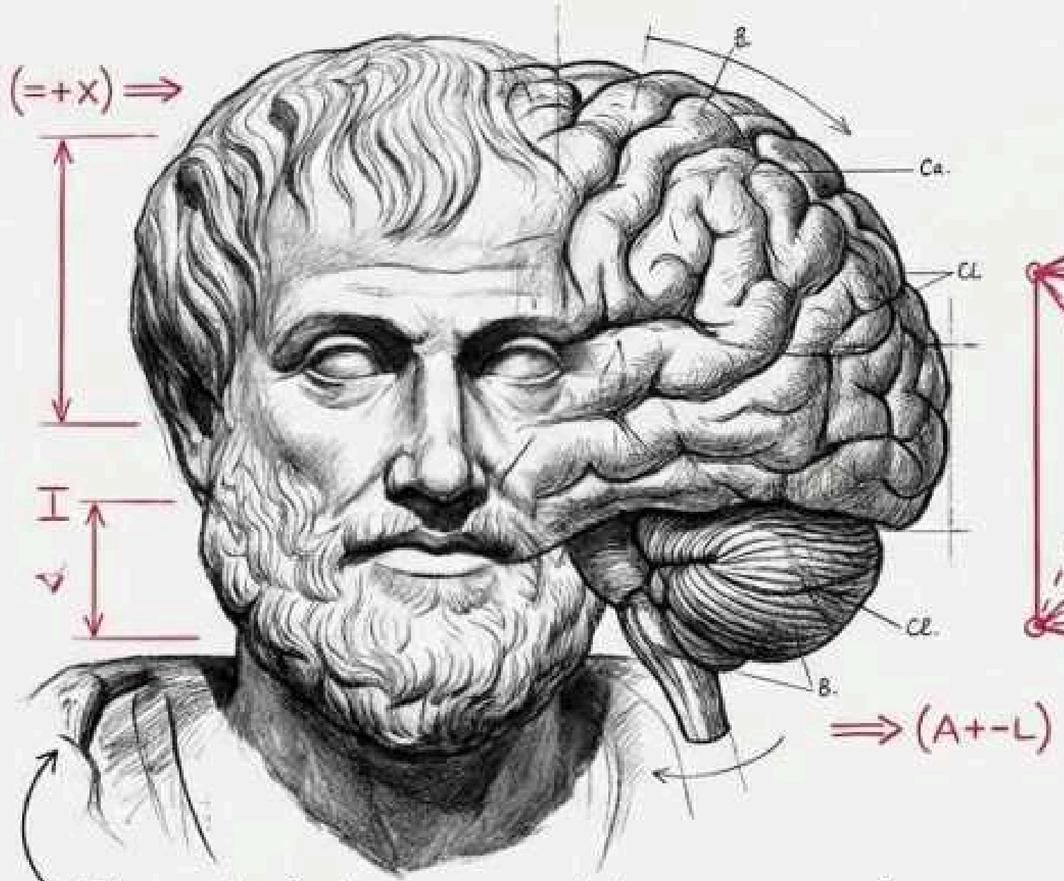
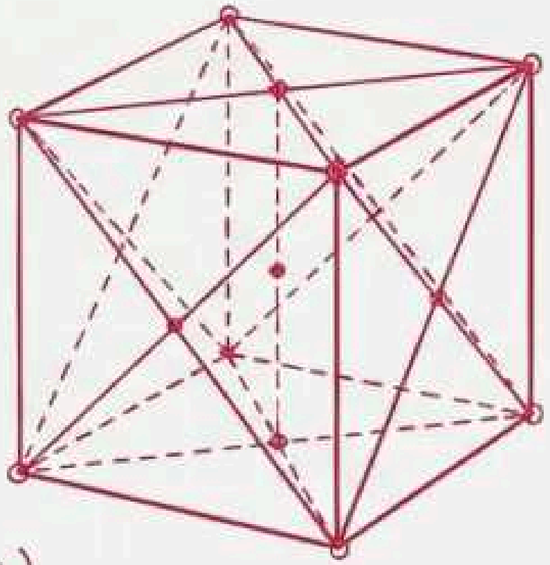
PHIL 101 B Lecture 2

Metaphysics: What Exists?







The study of what exists, including questions of mind, matter, freedom, and identity.

Gemini Notebook

Welcome to Philosophy 101 B



$\exists$ Access

Course_Cost = $0.00

Open Access: This course is free.

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Metaphysics ≡ The most general inquiry about reality.
(What exists? What is it like?)



Aristotle's Physics

+ Δt +
(Time passing)



First Principles

→

μετὰ τὰ φυσικά

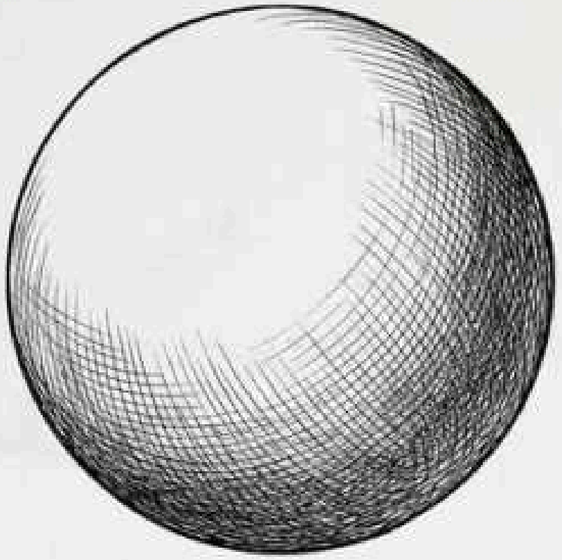
meta ta physika
after the physics

An accident of history that stuck.

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The Problem of Permanence and Change

Reality as ONE



$$\Delta_{reality} = \emptyset$$

What is, is one and unchanging.

Reality as MANY



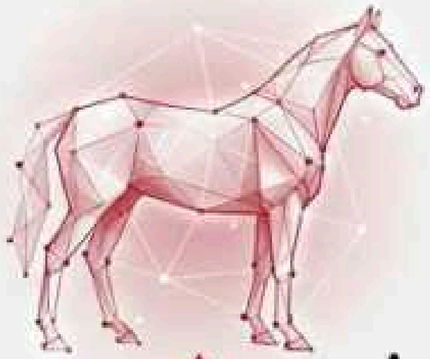
$$\frac{d}{dt}\,Reality \neq 0$$

Everything flows and nothing stays the same.

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Universals vs. Particulars (The Locus of Forms)

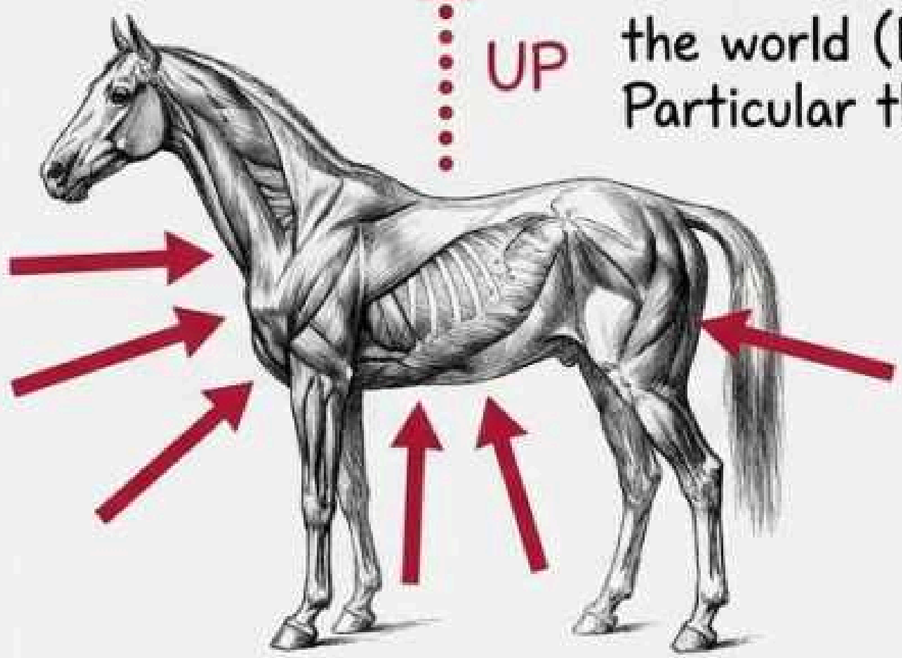
¶ 2.4



Plato

UP

A realm of unchanging Forms beyond the world (Beauty, Justice, the Good). Particular things are imperfect copies.



Aristotle

Forms exist only in the things themselves.

Horse ≡ Particular Substance → (Form + Matter)

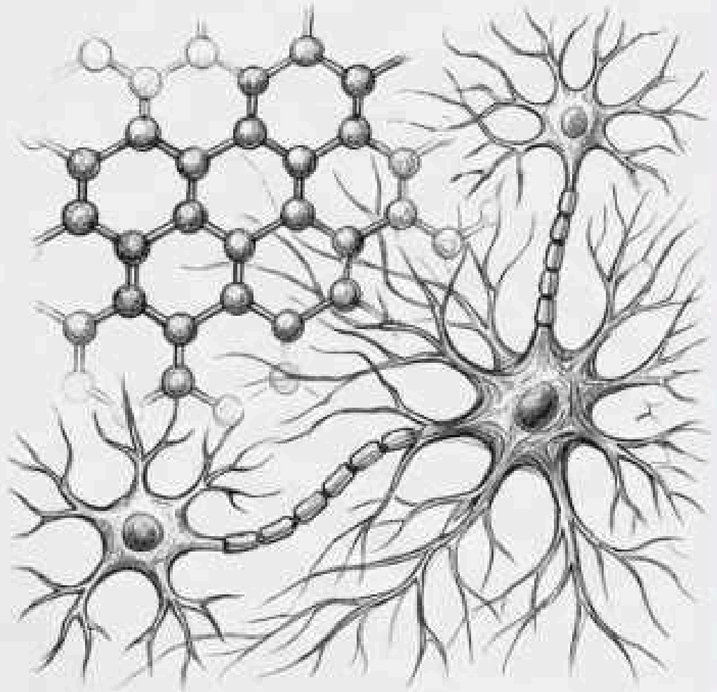
This dispute runs through the whole of medieval and modern thought.

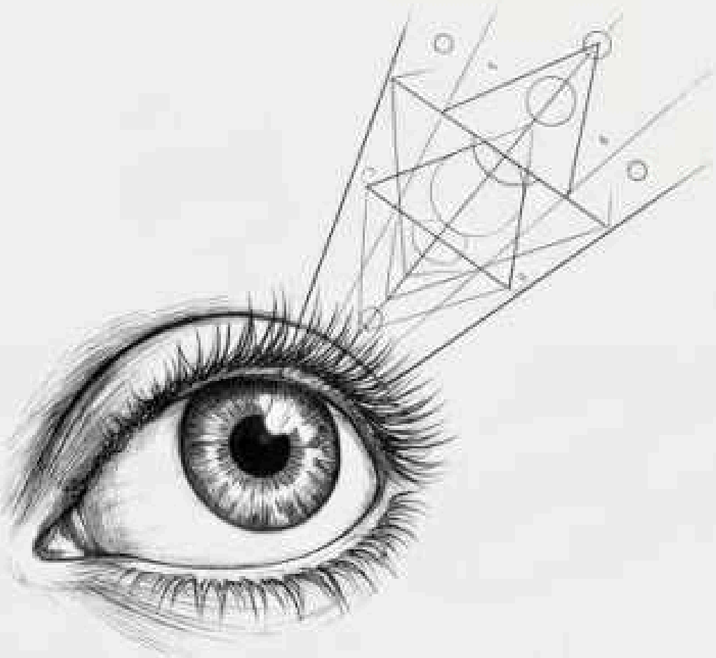
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¶ 2.5

What is the World Fundamentally Made Of?

Materialists	Idealists	Dualists
Only matter and physical processes exist.	Only minds and their ideas exist.	Two kinds of things exist: mind and matter.







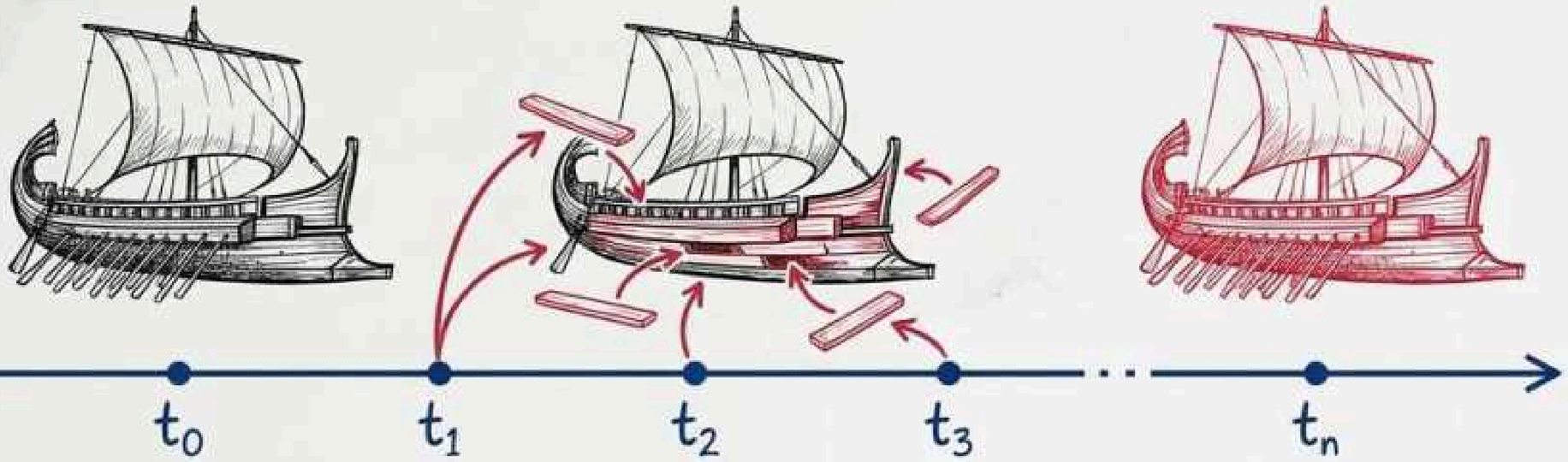
The Problem of Interaction.

Time, Identity, and Persistence Through Change

¶ 2.6

If replaced plank by plank, is $\text{Ship}(t_0) \equiv \text{Ship}(t_n)$?

Top Track:
The Ship of Theseus



Bottom Track:
Personal Identity



What makes you the same person you were as a child?

Is the past real, or only the present?

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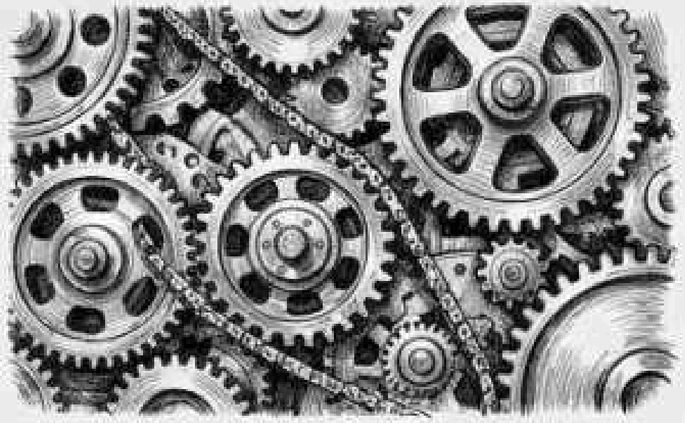
The Question of Freedom and Responsibility

¶ 2.7

Freedom

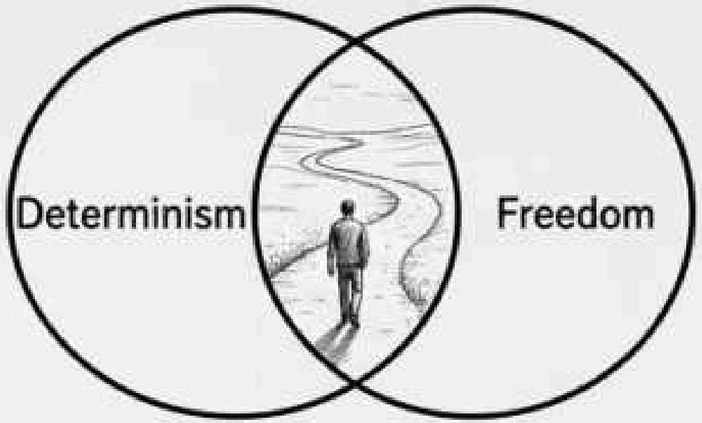
Determinism

Hard Determinism



Every event/choice is the necessary result of earlier causes. Freedom is denied.

Compatibilists



Freedom = acting on your own desires without constraint. Both coexist.

Can anyone be responsible for what they do?

Libertarians / Free Will



Determinism is denied. Total freedom exists.

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The Existence of God

¶ 2.8

Arguments For

Cosmological Argument

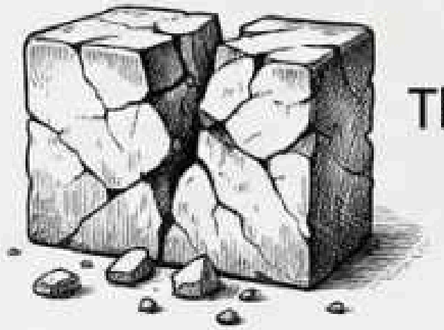


Design Argument





Arguments Against



The Problem of Evil

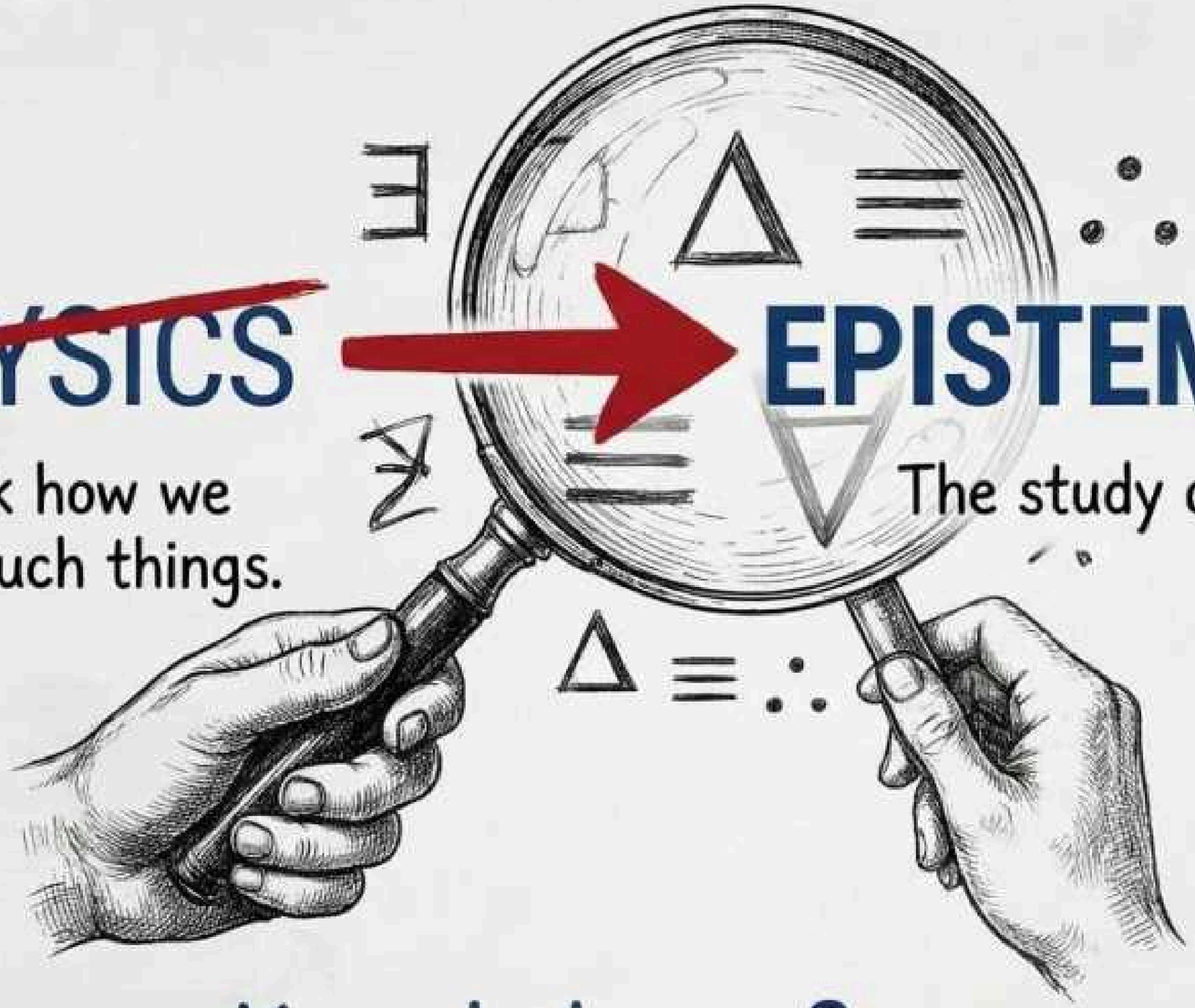
Approached by reasoning—philosophy, not preaching or dismissal.

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~~METAPHYSICS~~ → **EPISTEMOLOGY**

Tempts us to ask how we could ever know such things.

The study of knowledge.



Knowledge = ?

The question of the next lecture.

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