

## Week 1

- David Hume
  - He wants to get rid of the worst part of religion
- Emmanuel Kant
  - Wants to reform religion; this critique of religion is the best for religion - should become what it ought to be
- Most scholars of religion teach at secular university and they don't see themselves teaching to people of the same faith
- Religions have a place in the modern world; but some people think the world would be better without it
- Believing something is: taking it to be true
- Religious belief is a subset of ordinary belief (no more special than any other beliefs)
- Don't put faith and belief together
- Faith is beyond proof or is not able to be provable
- Belief is being able to prove something
- How do we think of belief ordinarily?
- Justification:
  - Rationalization: you want something to happen (the case) find mechanism to believe it
  - Justification: to give reasons for having a belief (if there are reasons for me to have the belief - everyone else could have the same reason) - a much more impersonal thing than false consciousness
  - Evidence: something to justify a belief

## Week 2

### Review

- Theologian study's higher entities
- Scholars of religion try to understand the human phenomenon (They study theologians) : Why they believe and How they believe? Justification -The way they believe in God and their justification for it
- Two beliefs (against religion and reform for religion)
  - Intolerant Radical Critique: Religion does not have a place in science, modern progressive world
  - Tolerant Reformist Critique: Religion has fallen short by priest and people that corrupt the practice but it can be reformed
  - Liberation Critique Beneficial: once we reform religion it can be reinforced, promoted and encouraged (make sure religion does not feed into its impulses – negative one)
- You could never be justified to believe in God in an intolerant radical critique
- Normative vs. Descriptive
  - Rationality is Normative
  - Definition of Descriptive language: your words to matching with the world (lining up)
  - Definition of Normative: combined prescriptive (prohibition-don't do this while doing that) language and evaluative language (I may proscribe or evaluate; maybe you should do this) (there is a view that we ought to do or good or bad)
- "Ethics" of Belief
  - Procedural question of belief (what do we do when create a belief in the right way?) - good person that is able to perform a belief
  - Ethos

- **Ethos** (/ˈiːθɒs/ or US: /ˈiːθoʊs/) is a Greek word meaning "character" that is used to describe the guiding beliefs or ideals that characterize a community, nation, or ideology.
- Mo·res' môrāz/ *noun*
  - the essential or characteristic customs and conventions of a community.
  - "an offense against social mores"
- Morality and Ethics describe our duties in the role we play in a community
- Good Character Traits: interns of our virtues (what parts of ourselves do we want to develop to become the best versions of ourselves)
- Ethics of belief: the duties and obligation you have when you believe in something
- What do we do for belief
  - Practice in forming the belief
  - Keeping the belief
  - Updating the belief
- Hume on Miracles
  - Wrote a book during censored times of the government
  - In the book we deal with belief before religious belief
  - Wise man: proportions his belief to evidence (general rule for everything in the book) - his proportionality claim (observation or experience for the justification of belief) - a duty
  - Weighing the possibilities for beliefs;
  - The requirement for Humes proportionality claim is to look at both sides (weigh for and against) (pros and cons) - certainty of belief, non-belief, confidence, low degree of confidence
  - The idea of the wise man or woman is that they will weigh the pros and cons and then make a decision
  - Experience, Testimony
  - Miracle
    - Violation against the laws of nature; contradicts the workings of the world
    - The evidence against a miracle is everything because it does not happen
    - You shouldn't create beliefs against the side of more tangible evidence
- Clifford's Demand for Evidence
  - Comparison to holding a belief you are not entitled and holding property that you are not entitled
  - Just as we cannot trust the thief, we cannot trust the person that steals beliefs
  - In our society where rely on each other for information; there is always a harm if not everyone is creating belief in a rational way (not everyone is reliable)
- Solma Challenge
  - Forming a belief in-voluntary – we can only be responsible to things that are in our control
  - What he is going to say is about the human. What are human meant for (virtues)
  - Proper functioning of the human depends on what you see the human being aspects all together
    - Having a higher power belief makes you believe that you have a higher purpose as a human

## Week 3

### Religious experience as a Justification for Religious belief

- Review: what is the evidentialist atheist for getting rid of religious belief?
- To show arguments of whether God exist or Not; you show the irrationality and morally wrong to believe in God to prove that he does not exist
- It is always wrong to hold beliefs without evidence (a categorical imperative)
  - Holding your beliefs illegally against rational thought of evidence is the way to prove religious believers wrong – religious believers violate good belief formation – believe you need adequate evidence (proportional belief)