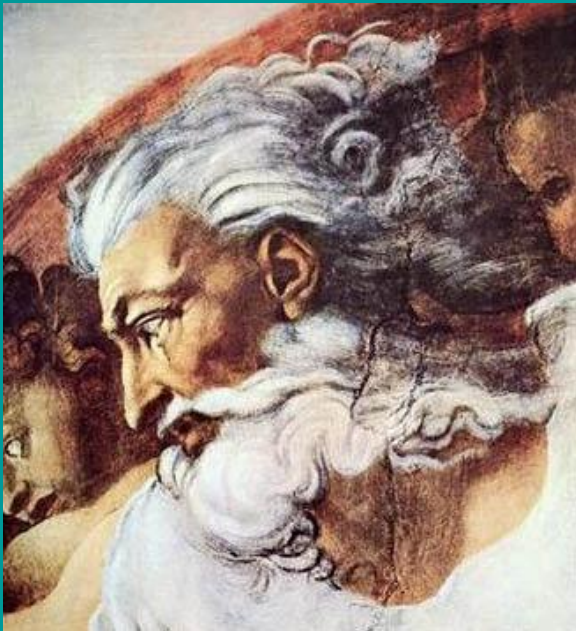




PHIL 101

Winter 2007



Self, World,

& God

Kalam Cosmological Argument

E_1 . The physical universe exists.

E_2 . The universe came into existence ten to twenty billion years ago.



T_0 . God exists and created it.

Alternative Explanations

T₀. God exists and created the universe.

T₁. Secular naturalist's account.

T₂. Religious pluralist's account.

Analytical Paper

- 30% of course grade!
- 1200 to 1800 words
- Formal writing
- The Writing Lab
- **Required** peer review, Monday February 26
- Papers are due Thursday, March 8
- How do I write an analytical paper?

Paper Assignment

What is the best explanation of the remarkable structure, order and purpose we see in this world?

Critically analyze the debate between the natural theologian's explanation, and the secular naturalist's account.

Who do you believe offers the soundest evidence? Justify your answer.

Structure of the Paper

- **Three major sections**
- **(Natural) Theism**
 - Explain the position
 - Cleanthes as one example
 - “New teleological argument”
- **Secular naturalism**
 - Explain the position
 - Philo as an example
 - Darwin as an example
 - Johnson as an example
- **Your analysis**
 - Defend, don’t just state

Advice to Student Writers

- Don't write for your professor
- Intelligent, college-educated reader
- Knows little, if anything, about your specific topic
- You assume the voice of authority
- Teach your reader
 - Don't talk down, but assume your reader needs to learn from you
 - Explain everything

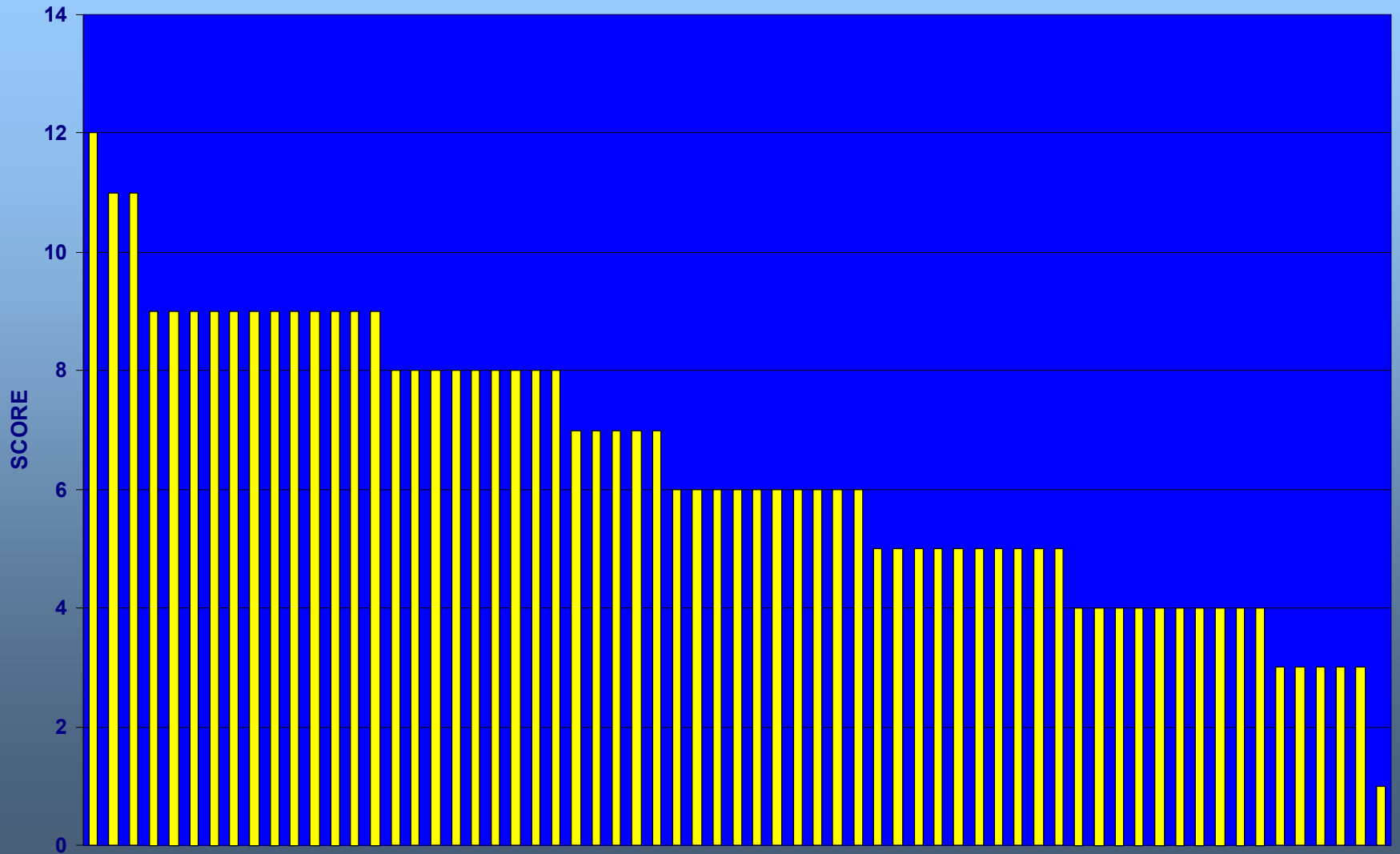
Mid-term

- **Challenging**
- **Any surprises?**
- **Reality check**
 - **Reading**
 - **Attending lectures**
 - **Study**
 - **Group study sessions**
 - **Practice answers**

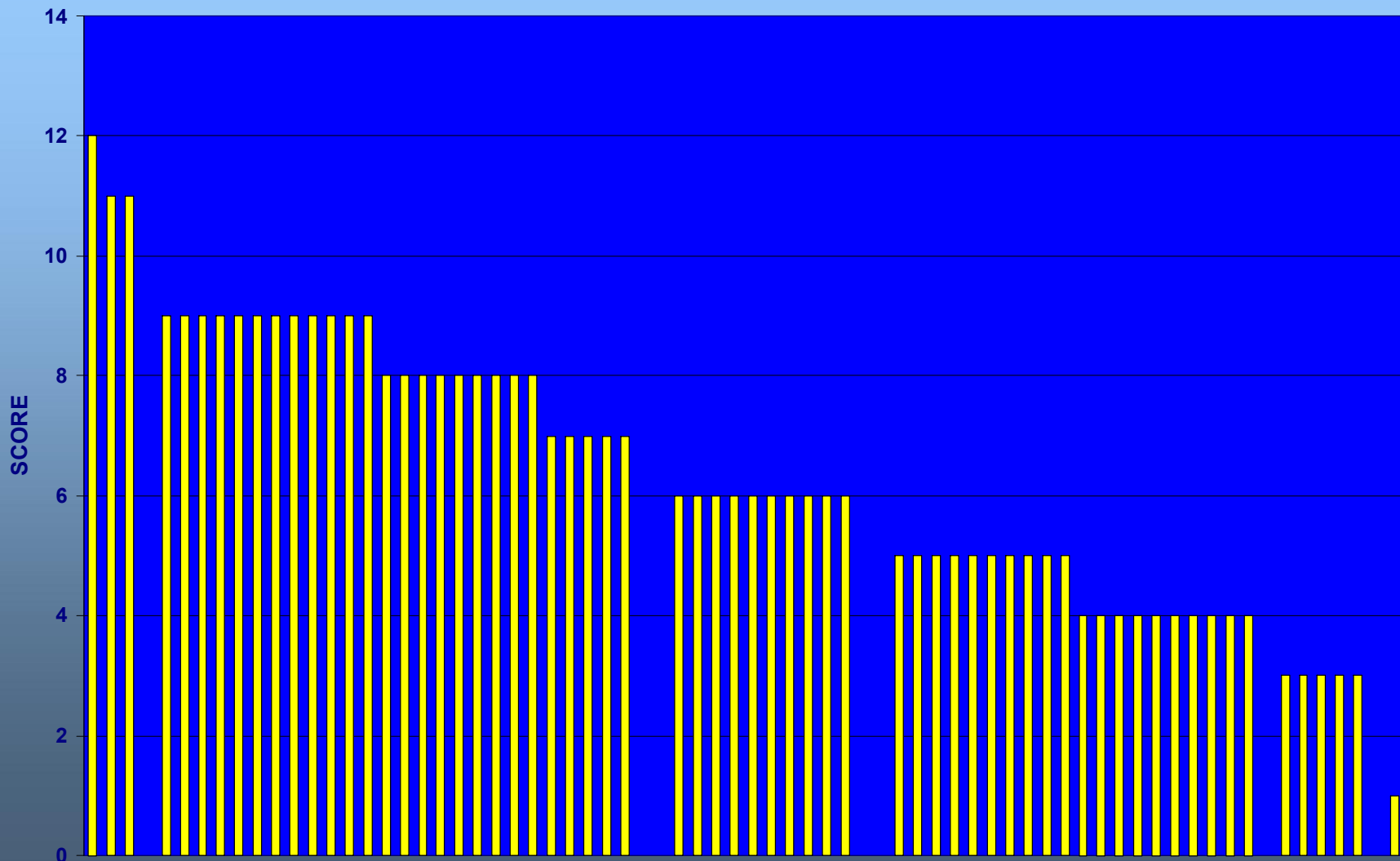
My Idiosyncratic Grading

- **Blind reading**
- **One question at a time**
- **Holistic evaluation**
- **Crude distinctions**
 - **Superstar – 4 points**
 - **Good job – 3 points**
 - **Adequate job – 2 points**
 - **Weak – 1 point**
- **Dividing lines**
- **My prejudice about the median**

PHIL 101 - 1st MIDTERM - W 07



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Question One

Explain Descartes' three skeptical arguments. Do they succeed in showing that we actually know nothing whatsoever? Why does Johnson suggest that Descartes' whole approach indicates the need for a more realistic definition of knowledge?

Question One

- **Three skeptical arguments**
 - Unreliability of the senses
 - Dream hypothesis
 - Evil genius
- **Certainty and indubitability**
- **Total skepticism?**
 - *Cogito ergo sum*
 - Anything else
- **Standard analysis of knowledge**
- **Descartes' standard for "justified" belief**
- **Johnson's standard for "justified" belief**
- **Your assessment**

Question Two

Explain the significance of the Baldus study. How does it fit into Johnson's interpretation of the constitutionality of the death penalty?

Question Two

- **Baldus study**
 - **Statistical data**
 - **Causal hypothesis**
- **Johnson's interpretation**
 - **“Contingent realities”**
 - **Arbitrary and capricious administration**
 - **Racist administration?**

Question Three

If we treat the statements of mystics as a kind of testimony, discuss how we can use the method of inference to the best explanation as a way of assessing the quality of evidence these reports have for establishing the existence of God.

Question Three

- **Mystical testimony**
 - Concrete example
 - Two inferences
 - Inference to sincerity
 - Inference to competence
 - Rivals to competence
- **Confirmation from other theistic mystics**
- **Mystical reports from non-theistic traditions**

Quite by accident I discovered a glitch in the ipod software. On Saturday my wife and I went to a banquet for the League of Oregon cities. The entertainment was *Pink Martini*, a Portland band I like a lot. I had already planned that I was going to ask for two songs when they came back for an encore – “Lilly” and “Que Sera Sera.” As it turned out they did “Que Sera Sera” as part of their concert, and there was no chance to ask when they did their encore. On Sunday as we drove back from Portland I plugged in my ipod to listen to them again. I set the settings to “All” and to “Shuffle Songs.” This meant that my ipod searched through both of their albums, found all 36 songs and played them in “random” order. That’s the glitch! The last two songs were “Lilly” and “Que Sera Sera.” The exact encore I had imagined the night before! What are the odds of this? My theory is that these two songs came up last, not randomly, but because of all the *Pink Martini* songs, I listen to these two the most often. I am thinking of writing to Apple to tell them about the problem.

SCHEMATIZING THE ARGUMENT

- e₁. Details of concert.**
- e₂. Imagined encore.**
- e₃. Setting the ipod on Sunday.**
- e₄. Last two songs in the shuffled play.**
- e₅. “Lilly” and “Que Sera Sera” most often played.**



- t₀. Glitch in ipod program – not “random” play.**

RIVAL EXPLANATIONS



- t₁. Just a coincidence**
- t₂. Colleen played a joke**
- t₃. Parapsychological account**
- t₄. No glitch – designed to do this**
- t₅. Jeff's perceptual inadequacies.**
- t₆. Ipod malfunction**

My Rank Order



- t1. Just a coincidence**
- t0. Glitch in ipod program – not “random” play.**
- t6. Ipod malfunction**
- t4. No glitch – designed to do this**
- t2. Colleen played a joke**
- t5. Jeff’s perceptual inadequacies.**
- t3. Parapsychological account**

ASSESSMENT OF THE QUALITY OF THE EVIDENCE



Since there is a better explanation of the songs appearing in that order, Jeff's evidence is very weak.