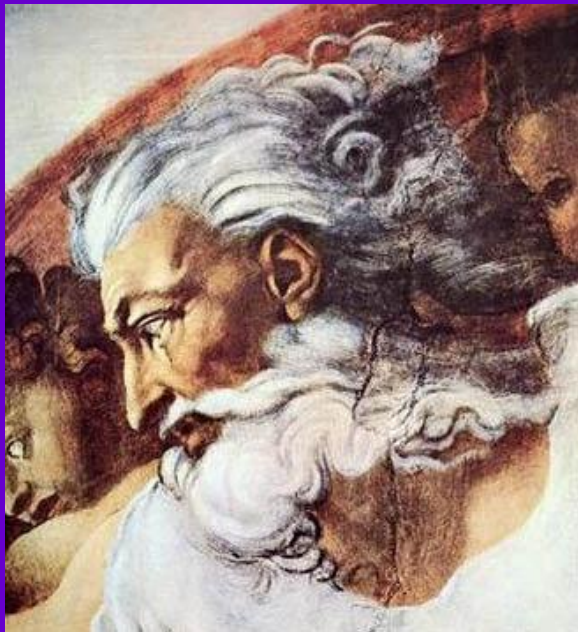




PHIL 101

Winter 2007



Self, World,

& God

# Background Concepts

- **Materialism and causal order**
- **Principle of sufficient reason**
- **The law of universal causation**
- **Quantum mechanics**
- **Determinism**
- **Psychological determinism**
  - **Genetics**
  - **Physiology**
  - **Environmental (cultural)**

# Determinism

- **Hard determinism**
  - **Every event has a cause (complicated causal story)**
  - **Every human action has a cause**
  - **Every thought, emotion, etc. has a cause**
- **Soft-determinism**
  - **What do we mean by “freedom”?**
  - **Positive ability – lack of restraint**
  - **Free to do X – I can do X, if I choose to do X**
  - **Universal causation applies to the choice**

# Legal & Moral Responsibility

- **Things that happen to you**
  - **Earthquake example**
  - **Convulsion**
  - **Gunman**
- **Things that you do**
  - **Coming to class**
  - **Helping a friend**
  - **Cheating on an exam**
- **Responsibility implies ability to do otherwise**

# Leopold and Loeb

- **The murder**
- **Clarence Darrow**
- **Darrow's strategy**
- **Darrow argument:**
  - **This was not a normal act**
  - **All life is a series of infinite chances**
  - **Nothing happens in this world without a cause**
- **The sentence**
- **What happened to them**



# Responses to Determinism

- **Insist on libertarian free will**
- **Do we understand it? Does it solve anything?**
- **Insist that soft-determinism solves the problem**
- **How can you be free, if your choices are caused?**
- **Admit that it's a problem that may defy solution**
- **Come up with a "new" solution**

# **“The Emergence of Free Will”**

- **Assumption of materialism**
- **Assumption of determinism**
- **Possible compatibility of free will and determinism**
  - **Old compatibilism – soft determinism**
  - **New compatibilism**
- **Emergent properties**
- **Reality of deliberation**
- **Reality of making up your mind**
- **Reality of convincing yourself to do something**
- **Reality of genuinely choosing**