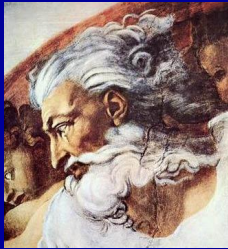


PHIL 107

Winter 2008



**Self, World,
& God**

Religious Evidence

- **Natural theology**
- **Proofs of God's existence**
- **Circumstantial evidence**
- **Inference to the best explanation**
- **Hume's *Dialogues***
- **Contemporary developments**

Cosmological Argument

E₁. The physical universe exists.

=====

T₀. God exists and created the universe.

Teleological Argument

E₁. The physical universe exists.

E₂. The biological world exhibits great structure order and purpose.

=====

T₀. God exists and created and designed the universe.

Eclipse of the Teleological Argument

- Rivals to the amazing structure, order and purpose in the biological world
- Impact of natural selection
 - Doesn't disprove God's existence
 - Offers the framework for a totally naturalistic account of biological order
- Fate of the teleological argument after Darwin
- Recent developments in science and natural theology

Cosmic Coincidences

- Order and structure in physics and chemistry
- Critical density
 - Closed universe
 - Open universe
 - Euclidean universe
 - Flatness parameter – accurate to 10^{60}
- Homogeneity of the universe
- Density perturbations
- Anthropic principle

New Teleological Argument

- E₁. The physical universe exists.
 - E₂. The biological world exhibits great structure order and purpose.
 - E₃. The physical universe exhibits an exceedingly "fine-tuned" structure and order. The precise structure and order seems to be a precondition for the evolution of conscious intelligence.
- =====
- T₀. God exists and designed the universe in such a way that intelligent life would eventually evolve.

Secular Naturalism

- Anthropic principle
 - Selection bias
 - Flippant articulation
 - Swinburne's response
- Theories of everything
- Inflationary universe
 - Phase change
 - Magnitude of the expansion
- Contrast with the Darwinian rival

What's the Best Explanation?

- **My naturalistic biases**
- **Still ...**
- **If I were a theist**
- **All the relevant evidence?**
- **Religious pluralism?**
- **Incommensurability**