



PHIL 101
Winter 2008
**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