

Philosophy 101: Introduction to Philosophy, Queens College, Fall 2004
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Lecture Notes, December 8

I. Reviewing Epistemology

We didn't get a lot of philosophy done, today.
In light of the quizzes, we reviewed the problems of induction.
I spoke about the KK thesis, that in order to know something, one must know that one knows.
I mentioned that this requirement on knowledge seems too strong.
Cecilia brought up the question of amnesiacs, and whether they refute the KK thesis.
I wondered if Descartes' demand for certainty was too strong.
Perhaps knowledge just isn't firm and lasting, in the way that Descartes, and Plato, would have it.

II. Introduction to the *Euthyphro*

This dialogue is a search for the form of piety.
We will also discuss an analogous search, for the good.
The same problem arises for that, and for justice, generally.

Euthyphro is on the way to court prosecute his father for murder of a slave.
Socrates is aghast that someone would do such a thing (not the murder, but the prosecution).
He wants to know how Euthyphro could prosecute his father.
To do so, Euthyphro must be sure what piety is, must know that he is doing the right thing.

Socrates asks Euthyphro what piety is.
Euthyphro gives three responses.
Socrates shows each response to be unsatisfactory.