

But before we move on to Kant's moral argument.....

- For the Teleological argument: the burden of proof lies on the skeptic who, for example, tries to do away with the obvious order (laws) of the universe, substituting it for random chance.
- Yet just a 'smidgen' of design is all it takes to have a designer.
- Design necessarily includes intention...and intention does not just exist, floating around somewhere in space creating and exhibiting design.
- Intention is always attached to intelligence, and the single most important characteristic of personality is intention.
- Self-existent, formless, eternal matter has no personality....Impersonal forces have no mind, no will, and therefore cannot create or design.
- We recognize that personal reality exists in the universe...
- Descartes' argument for his own existence was a proof for his own personhood—a personhood that contained thought and intention, the ingredients of personality, within it.
- How do you account for self-awareness?....

One last “Thought”: Can we trust our brains?

- Evolutionary science argues we’re hardwired to see God/design and that’s helped us to survive...
- However, IF we can’t trust our brains to tell us the truth about God or Design from Chaos, how can we trust our brains to tell us anything we can believe...including Evolutionary science??
- In other words, if our brains or faculties tell us only what we need to survive, why trust them about anything at all??

Kant's Moral Argument

Lecture 21

Kant's Proofs For and Against God

He denied the four main arguments of God

But he recognized the importance of having a god...the moral argument

The New Testament and Morality

[28] And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. [29] They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, [30] slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, [31] foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. [32] Though they know God's decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

(Romans 1:28-32 ESV)

- [12] For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. [13] For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. [14] For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. [15] They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them [16] on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

(Romans 2:12-16 ESV)

Why Humans Need God

Kant did not know whether knowledge of God was possible, but IF it were possible, what would it have to be??

Kant's Categorical Imperative: A sense of 'oughtness'

For Ethics to be Meaningful:

1. Perfect Justice
2. Life after death
3. Perfect Judge
4. All-knowing Judge
5. All-powerful Judge

The Existential Response

Living on borrowed capital??