

What is Philosophy?: Crash Course Philosophy #1

CrashCourse

Crash course philosophy is brought to you by squarespace. Hank Green: We are embarking on a journey of inquiry into the whole world. In an effort to figure out what gives it meaning, what makes it beautiful, where its evils come from. And along the way, we're going to question every aspect of your own personal life - why you do what you do. Philosophy traces its roots back to ancient Greece, 500 years before the common era. The word "philosopher" is used to describe a way of approaching the world. When the earliest philosophers used the word "philosophy," they basically meant the academic study of anything. But philosophy came to be understood more as thinking about questions. Big questions. Philosophy is an effort to understand the fundamental nature of the world, of the universe, and of being. It poses questions like: Is the world really what I think it is? If it isn't true, then what is true? How do I know if I'm right? How will I ever know I'm wrong? Can I ever be certain about anything? Value theory helps frame your thinking around what you actually do - like how you should act and attach meaning to.

1. Ethics is the study of how humans should live with each other, and value theory is the study of what is right or what is valuable. Aesthetics is a part of value theory because beauty and art are things we value and evaluate. Crash course philosophy is not your usual field of study. We will learn about the major fields of philosophy, posing questions and considering possible answers. Each time, we will use a two step method: first, we really try to understand an idea to understand it as charitably as possible. Then, in step two, you subject your understanding to some serious critical evaluation. Basically, you try to knock down what you think you know about a particular view of the world. Crash course philosophy is produced in association with PBS Digital Studios. This episode was filmed in the Doctor Cheryl C. Kinney Crash Course Studio with the help of these amazing people and our graphics team is Thought Cafe. Try Squarespace at Squarespace.com/crashcourse for a special offer.