

Phil 2301 Intro to Philosophy
Five Stimuli for the Study of Philosophy

I. Wonder (Mystery) and Curiosity (Questions)

"The feeling of wonder is the touchstone of the philosopher, and all philosophy has its origins in wonder." —Plato, *Theaetatus*.

II. An Encounter with the Big Questions

1. What is ultimate reality?
2. What is the basis or source of your beliefs about things?
3. Who am I and why am I?
4. How do I know what is right and wrong?
5. What's gone wrong?
6. What's the remedy?
7. What will happen to me at death?

III. Search for the Meaning of Life

1. What is life's greatest good, the *summum bonum*?
2. The diversion from searching for the answer to this question
3. Five ways to hide an elephant!

IV. The Need for Wisdom (Skill in living)

- a. *Oxford English Dictionary*: Capacity of judging rightly in matters relating to life and conduct
- b. *Encyclopedia of Philosophy*: Sound and serene judgment regarding the conduct of life .
- c. Bible: skill in living your life in accordance with the structures of reality as established by God at the creation

V. Limit or Boundary Situations, esp. Death (Karl Jaspers)