

PHI 103: Unit 1 - Lecture 1
Overview of Philosophy

What is Philosophy?

ETYMOLOGICAL DEFINITION:

philia (love) + *sophia* (wisdom) =

‘philosophy’ - the love of wisdom

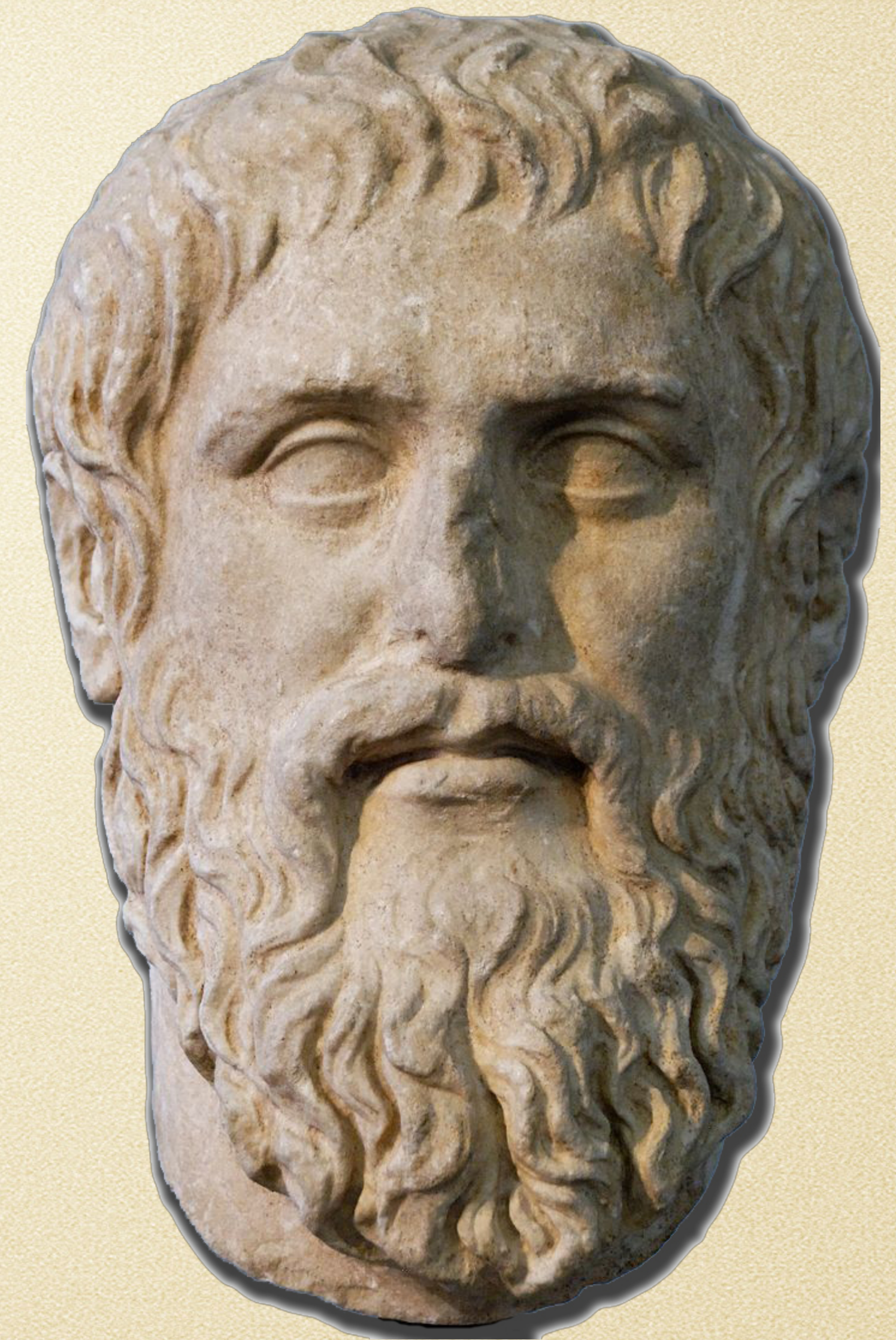
'Philosophy'

an Academic Definition

'*academy*' - *ἀκαδημία*



c. 387 BCE



Plato (*Aristokles*)

424-348 BCE

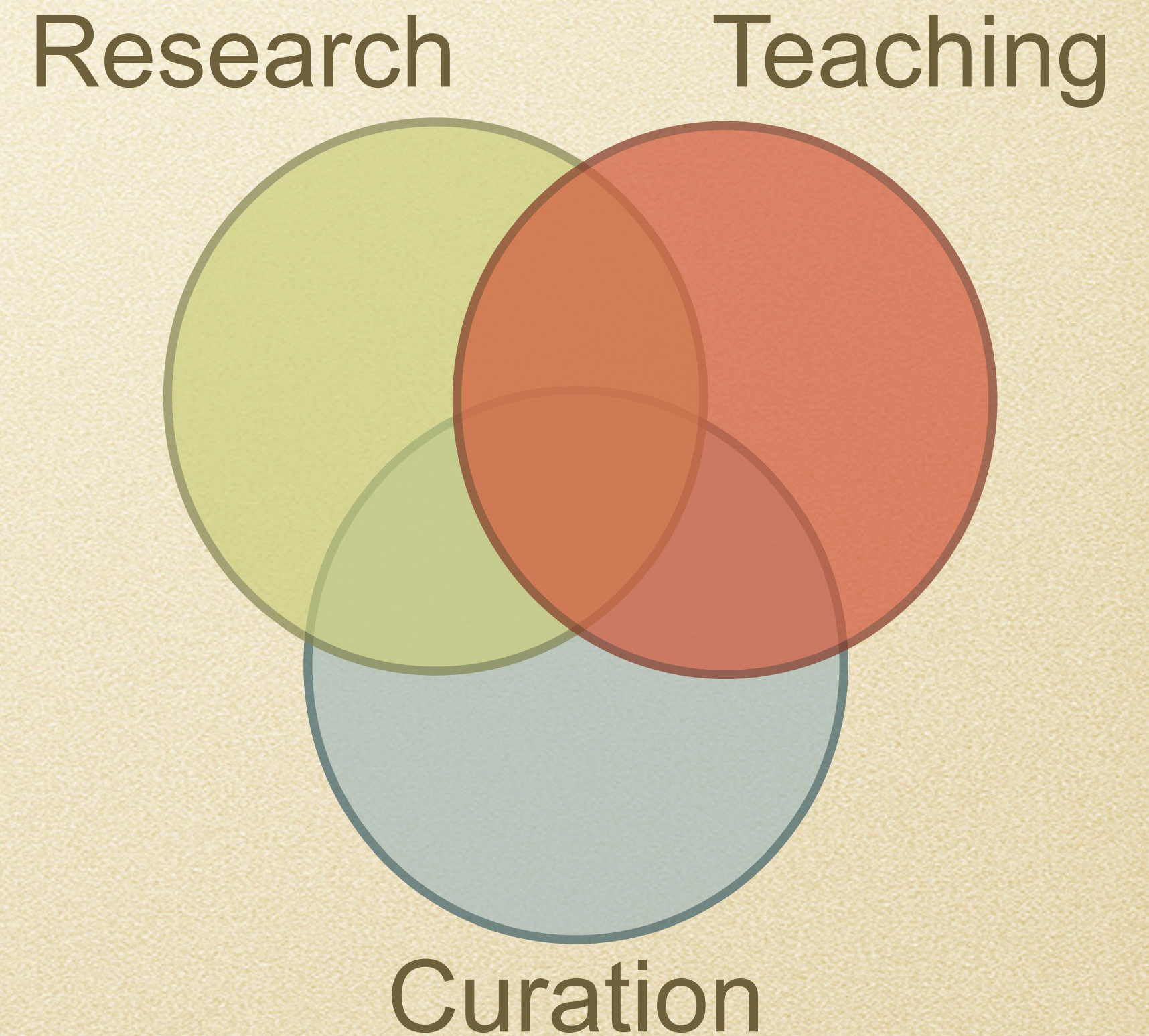
'Philosophy'

an Academic Definition

ACADEMY:

A *social* institution dedicated to:

1. the **discovery** / creation
2. the **transmission**
3. and the **preservation** of knowledge.



The Academy

Arts

- Visual
- Performing
- Literary

Philosophy?

Sciences

- Natural
- Social

SCIENCE

NATURAL

- Physics
- Chemistry
- Biology

SOCIAL

- Anthropology
- Sociology
- Geography
- History

'Philosophy'

an Umbrella Term

1. **Epistemology** - Theories of *Knowledge*
2. **Metaphysics** - Theories of *Reality*
3. **Axiology** - Theories of *Value*
4. **Logic** - Theories of *Reason*
5. **History of Philosophy** - Philosophy in *context*

The Subdisciplines of Philosophy

1. **Epistemology** - Theories of Knowledge

- a. *What* is knowledge?
- b. *Can* we have knowledge?
- c. *How* do we get knowledge?

The Subdisciplines of Philosophy

2. **Metaphysics** - Theories of Reality

- a. **Ontology** - what *is* existence?
- b. **Philosophy of Mind** - what *is* consciousness?
- c. **Philosophy of Religion** - what *is* God?

The Subdisciplines of Philosophy

3. **Axiology** - Theories of Value

a. **Ethics** - what is *Goodness*?

b. **Aesthetics** - what is *Beauty*?

c. **Political Theory** - what is *Justice*?

The Subdisciplines of Philosophy

4. **Logic** - Theories of Argument/Reason - the *method* of Philosophy

a. **What is an argument?**

b. **Inductive Reasoning** - probable conclusions

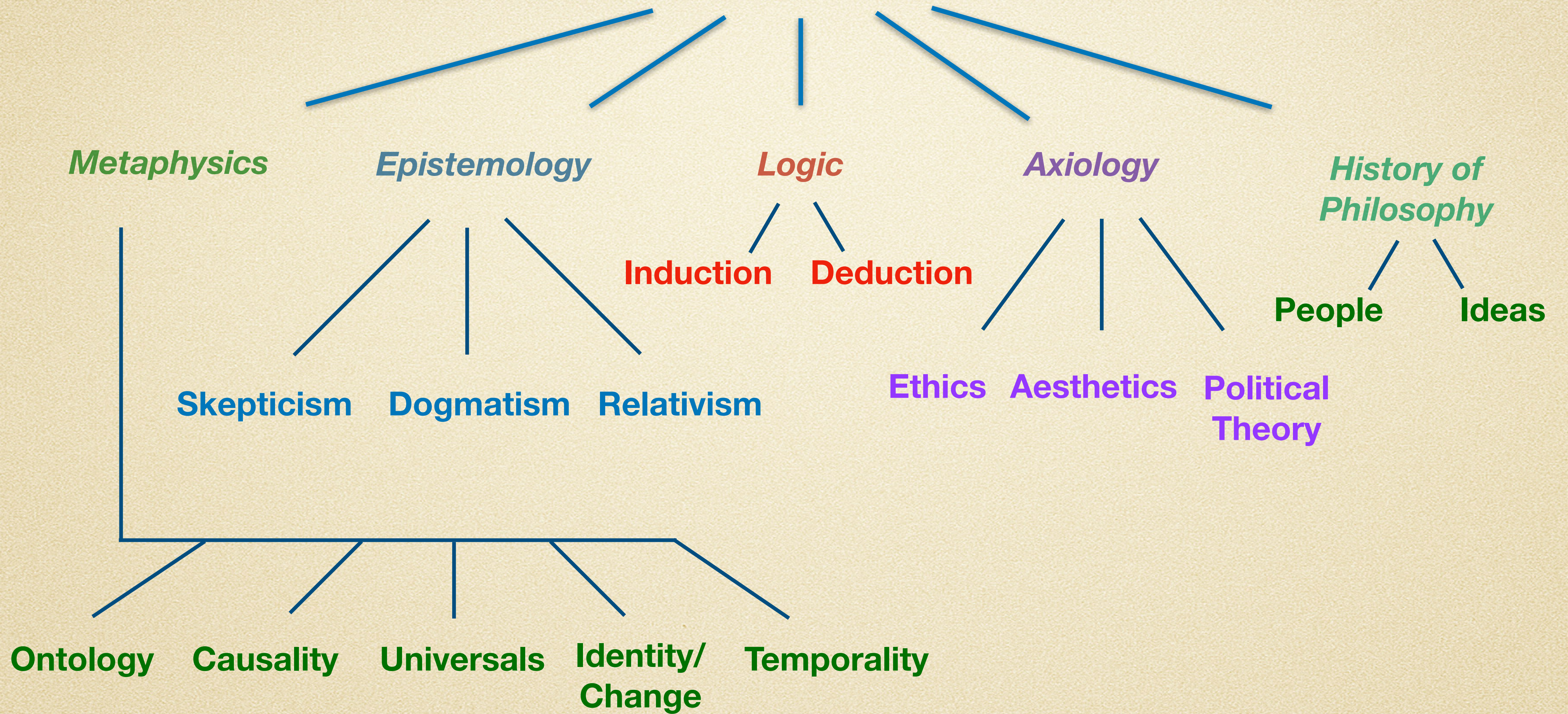
c. **Deductive Reasoning** - necessary conclusions

The Subdisciplines of Philosophy

5. **History of Philosophy**

- a. **People** - who are these philosophers anyway?
- b. **Ideas** - what did they think about and why?

PHILOSOPHY



Summary

- ✱ Philosophy is an *academic discipline*.
- ✱ 'Philosophy' is an *umbrella term* like 'science' covering many different investigations.
- ✱ There are *five distinct sub-disciplines* of Philosophy.
- ✱ Philosophy uses **logic/argument** as its methodology
- ✱ The goal of Philosophy is to *discover the truth*.