

DAVID HUME

“Errors in religious are dangerous; those in philosophy only ridiculous”

– David Hume

Biography

- Born 1711 in Edinburgh, Scotland
- By age 18 had a nervous breakdown
- A good friend of Benjamin Franklin
- Died 1776 in Scotland
- Hume is regarded by critics as the most important philosopher to have written in the English language. Why?
 1. He discovered an original and broad way to cover issues (metaphysics, ethics, etc)
 2. He pursued ideas of John Locke, leading to skepticism
 3. He formulated a defense of skepticism



Philosophy – David Hume

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HS52H_CqZLE (11 minutes)

Philosophy (major ideas)

We cannot establish the existence of an external, physical world

Since our beliefs are based not on reason but imagination, they cannot be rationally justified

The physical world, as philosophers and laymen alike have conceived it, has an existence independent of anyone's awareness of it

The "real world" lays beyond human's knowledge of it.

Ultimately, nothing can be known

Our moral convictions are based on feeling rather than on reason