Worldviews  
Mr. Myers

Philosophy: Secular Humanism

1. What is truth according to secular humanists? Truth is that which corresponds to reality
2. How do we learn about reality (know truth) according to secular humanists?
   1. Science (experience: that which can be discerned with the five senses)
      1. Based on the assumption of naturalism: the belief that the physical and natural is the only thing that is real
      2. Science is king for secular humanists; it is the trump card for knowing truth
      3. Reasons for prioritizing science
         1. It works—people use it every day; it is reliable and predictable; and it makes life more comfortable in many ways
         2. It allows people to put their confidence in themselves
   2. Secular humanists would also accept reason as a way to know truth as long as it lines up with science’s conclusions
3. Critique of the idea that science is the supreme way to discover reality
   1. Logical problem
      1. Secular humanists say that faith is not a valid basis for knowledge, and yet they put an enormous amount of faith in the idea that all of reality is physical (talk about how a particular tool is useless to measure anything outside the realm of what it is designed to measure or do; e.g. I’m not going to take my compass out into a field in an attempt to test radiation)
   2. Existential (meaning) problem
      1. Science tells people a lot about “what” is in the world, but it doesn’t tell us “why”; it doesn’t give answers for the purpose of life
      2. Science doesn’t offer an adequate explanation of many of the intangible dimensions of our lives: beauty, love, joy, desires, hopes, etc.