Descartes Outline

1) Descartes the father of Modern Philosophy.

a) How is knowledge possible given what the world is like?

b) How is knowledge possible given what we are line?

2) Cartesian skepticism.

a) Can we know anything at all? Are we doomed to ignorance?

b) How do we obtain knowledge is it through the senses or the intellect or both?

3) Descartes adopts the point of view of someone who knows nothing. He is not a teacher or expert who is trying to explain something to someone.

4) Notice what this requires of us. If your logical engine breaks down, if your rules of inquiry and proof don’t allow you to move with ease from one truth to another – then you stop, raise the lid of your mid and take a good look to see what’s wrong. (See 1b above.

5) Epistemological turn – concern is with the subject of knowledge not with the objects of knowledge.

6) Reason is less a possession that a process of acquisition.