Descartes

1) Rationalism & Solipsism

 a) Rationalism – any theory that emphasizes reason or intuition (usually in contrast with the senses) as the basis for acquiring knowledge.

 b) Solipsism – Literally “only oneself-ism.” This is an extreme form of skepticism saying nothing exists beyond oneself and ones immediate experiences.

2) Descartes leaves the world behind in Meditation 1. In Meditation he begins to try and regain the world.

3) Descartes & Hobbes

 a) Descartes – What is the basis of the relation between the human subject and the world? One famous answer to this is Descartes’: The human mind is characterized by thought, while the essence of the world is “extension.”

So what?

 b) Hobbes – he is at the opposite end of the spectrum. Hobbes takes the human being to be simply a part of the material world.

4) Augustine & The Cogito

5) Next Locke & Hume’s Epistemology