

# Unit 3: Philosophy

*“Cogito Ergo Sum”*

Rene Descartes



# Rene Who?



- French
- Born March 31, 1596

## Education

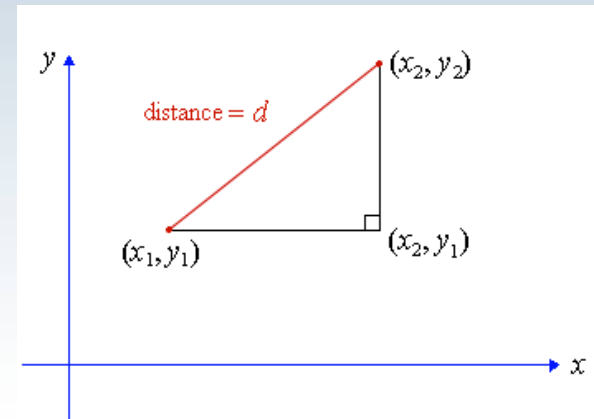
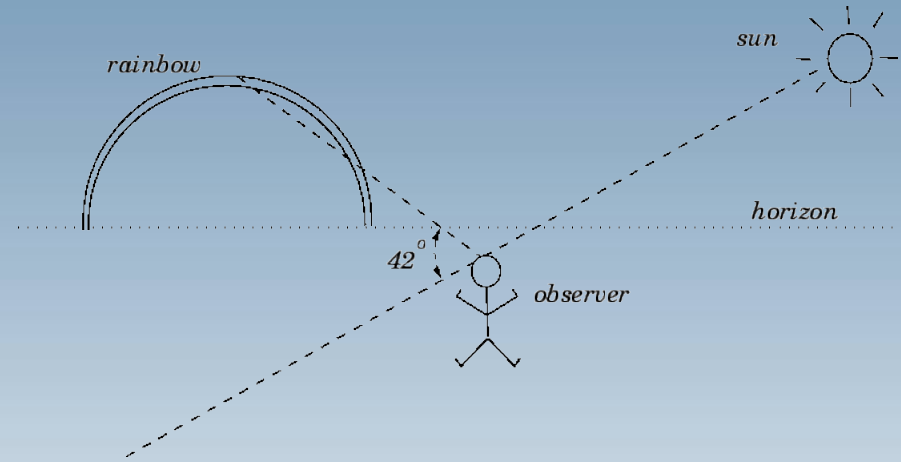
- La Flèche Jesuit College (Philosophy emphasis)
  - 6 yrs grammar (Latin/Greek)
  - Studied poets (Cicero)
  - 3 yrs philosophy
    - Aristotle – logic, morals, physics, metaphysics
- Family of lawyers
  - Law degree 1616



# Rene Who?

## Career

- Mathematician
  - Algebraic “analytical” geometry
- natural scientist/philosopher
  - Co-framer of sine law of refraction
  - Empirical account of rainbow
  - Mind-body problem = “mind over matter”
  - Method: **Doubt**
- metaphysician (Enlightenment)
  - Existence of God
  - *Meditations on First Philosophy*





**REAL KNOWLEDGE  
IS TO KNOW THE  
EXTENT OF ONES  
IGNORANCE**

- CONFUCIOUS

“I found myself beset by so many doubts and errors that I came to think I had gained nothing from my attempts to become educated but increasing recognition of my ignorance”

# Journal Task



- In your opinion, what are the advantages of being educated? Are there any disadvantages?
- Be sure to include:
  - Agree/disagree
  - Why
  - Support for your claims

# Content Vocabulary



- **Reason** (used within context)
- **Assent**
- **Propositions**
- **Principles**
- **Deceive/Deception**
- **Fictitious**
- **Flippant**
- **Probable vs. probably**
- **Malicious**
- **Cunning**
- **Demolish**
- **Withhold**
- **Conclude**
- **Falsehood**
- **Doubtful**
- **Indubitable**
- **Madmen** crazy ppl
- **Insanity** the state of being seriously mentally ill
- **Paupers** very poor ppl
- **Theology** the study of religion
- **Demon** an evil spirit
- **Sirens** a group of women in ancient Greek stories, whose beautiful singing made sailors sail towards them into dangerous water
- **Satyrs** a god in ancient Greek stories, represented as half human and half goat
- **Dressing-gown** a night gown, something you sleep in
- **Fate/chance** something that just happens, is not planned
- **Cause and effect** b/c of "A", "B" happens – something is a result of something else happening before it
- **Senses** sight, hearing, feeling, taste, and smell
- **Notion** an idea, belief, or opinion
- **Imperfection** not completely perfect or correct, flawed