

# Arguments for The Existence of God

Ontological  
Cosmological  
Teleological

# God's Existence

- Not subjective
- Not unprovable in principle
- Natural Theology: Knowing God through reason
- Biblical Theology: Knowing God through revelation

# The Ontological Argument

- *A priori* (vs. *a posteriori*)
- God exists by definition
- If you think about the concept of God hard enough, you'll see that he *must* exist

# Descartes' Version

- God is a perfect being
- A perfect being must contain all perfections
- Existence is a perfection.
- God exists.

# Anselm's Version

- *Reductio ad absurdum*
- Indirect proof - show that atheism leads to a contradiction, so theism must be true

# Anselm's Version

- Assume God doesn't exist
- God exists only in the mind
- The Greatest Conceivable Being (GCB) exists only in the mind
- But if the GCB exists *only* in the mind, there is a greater being, which exists not *only* in the mind but in *reality* as well

# Anselm's Version

- The GCB exists ONLY in the mind
- The GCB isn't the GCB
- A is not A <-- Contradiction
- Atheism leads to a contradiction
- So, atheism is false
- If atheism is false, theism must be true
- So, God exists.