

Part 1

American Pragmatism

- ▶ Pragmatism is a method for solving or evaluating intellectual problems.
- ▶ Before determining whether any philosophical claim is true it is necessary to determine its cash value.
- ▶ The only reason you have for calling something true is in relation to how the claim works out in experience.(William James)
- ▶ The truth of an idea is a property independent of human experience.(Plato)

Part II

What is Reality?

- ▶ I am living in two worlds.
 - ▶ The real world in itself exists but I'll never know it. (Immanuel Kant)
 - ▶ So why worry about it? It has no cash value.
- ▶ Dilthey, Nietzsche and others
- ▶ Real challenge to objectivity comes from philosophers who argue that what I know depends on my particular nature.
- ▶ The truth about the truth.
- ▶ Does knowledge depend on who you are or on what the world is like?
- ▶ Reality is a tricky thing.