

Comm 310
Mass Media Ethics

René Descartes (1596 - 1650)

mathematician & philosopher

Founded modern Rationalism

Believed that knowledge meant power – that the ultimate purpose of theoretical science is to serve the practical needs of mankind.



Descartes defined philosophy as “the study of wisdom” or “the perfect knowledge of all one can know.”

Philosophy's chief utility is for

- the conduct of life – morals,
- the conservation of health – medicine, and
- the invention of all the arts – mechanics.