

# UNDERSTANDING 2 FORMS

Of Post-Modernism

# HISTORICALLY

- Postmodernism (roughly speaking) is a skeptical reaction to Modernism
- Modernism - places a strong emphasis on the reliability of rationality (Rationality) and the objectivity of science--PM says too strong an emphasis
- Postmodernism - questions the reliability of rationality and the (complete) objectivity of science

# TWO PM DISTINCTIONS WITH A DIFFERENCE

- However, there are at least two important distinctions that can be made
- Metaphysical PM - skepticism about the nature of ultimate reality - it's alleged there is no one way things ultimately are
- Epistemic PM - reality is what it is, but a skepticism about our claims of knowledge and knowledge of reality--skepticism of our description of it



# IMPLICATIONS

- **Metaphysical Postmodernism** is a more radical form of skepticism - no objective (mind independent) nature of reality
  - Such a view can promote “reality constructivism”; but can we eliminate AIDs by agreeing that in our construction it doesn’t exist?
- **Epistemic Postmodernism** is less radical (perspectivism in term of knowledge) and/or agnosticism about the nature of reality
  - Use constructions not to construct reality, but to construct our understanding of reality (admits of fallibilism)