

Title	Total Recall
Director	Paul Verhoeven
Date	1990
Area	Early Modern Philosophy
Theme	Descartes - scepticism
Plot Summary	Doug Quaid (Arnold Schwarzeneger), who dreams recurrently about Mars, goes to Recall, a 'travel agency' that implants memories of holidays for those who can't afford the real thing. In the course of the implant procedure, having chosen the 'invincible secret agent on Mars' adventure, he finds he has already undergone a memory implant procedure. He comes to believe that he is in fact not a lowly construction worker but a secret agent called Hauser, apparently fighting against the evil Mars administrator Cohagen. He goes to Mars to find out why someone wiped his memory, seeking out the Martian resistance to help him. Eventually he finds that Hauser is actually a friend of Cohagen's, and underwent a fake memory implant procedure in order to become Quaid and lead the authorities to the Martian resistance. He is captured by Cohagen but rather than be restored to his former self, Quaid escapes and succeeds in overthrowing the corrupt Martian administration.
Key Scenes	On Mars, a Doctor Edgemar comes to his hotel room and tries to convince him that he is dreaming (having a psychotic delusion informed by the false holiday memories Recall has implanted), and that he is in fact back on earth, strapped in the chair at Recall. Quaid notices a drop of sweat on the doctor's brow, surmises that it is a trap, and shoots the doctor. This scenario recalls Descartes skeptical dream argument. How do we know that we are not dreaming right now? Is Quaid justified in thinking that he has established he is not. Couldn't anything we point to in order to establish we are awake itself be part of a dream? [37.40 – 40.5] http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fBEVuzWHaOc At the end of the film, Quaid says to his girlfriend 'I've just had a terrible thought. What if this is all a dream?' Slyly alludes to the possibility that Quaid might indeed have been dreaming all along. [1.44.40 – 1.44.50]
Relevant Text	Descartes, Meditation 1