

Science in Classics

经典中的科学

Tutorial 1: Plato

This lesson

- Warm up
- Discussion I (content and reflection)
- Discussion II (extension)
- Conclusion

(Announcement)

Which is more real? (2 minutes)

- Which, A or B of the pair, is more real?

W1. A. A book in hand

B. A book 100 m away

W2. A. The book in hand, you haven't read it

B. The same book, you have read it

W3. The content of the book in hand is a life story.

A. The life story

B. The moral of the life story: Life is full of uncertainties. Life is a journey. Love never dies.

Which is more real? (2 minutes)

- Which, A or B of the pair, is more real?

Plato's Allegory

W1. A. A book in hand
B. A book 100 m away

(sense experience)

W2. A. The book in hand, you haven't read it
B. The same book, you have read it

(intellectual experience)

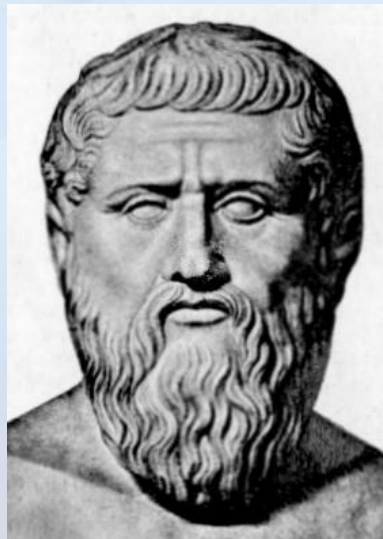
W3. The content of the book in hand is a life story.

A. The life story

(meaning)

B. The moral of the life story: Life is full of uncertainties. Life is a journey. Love never dies.

What would Plato think?



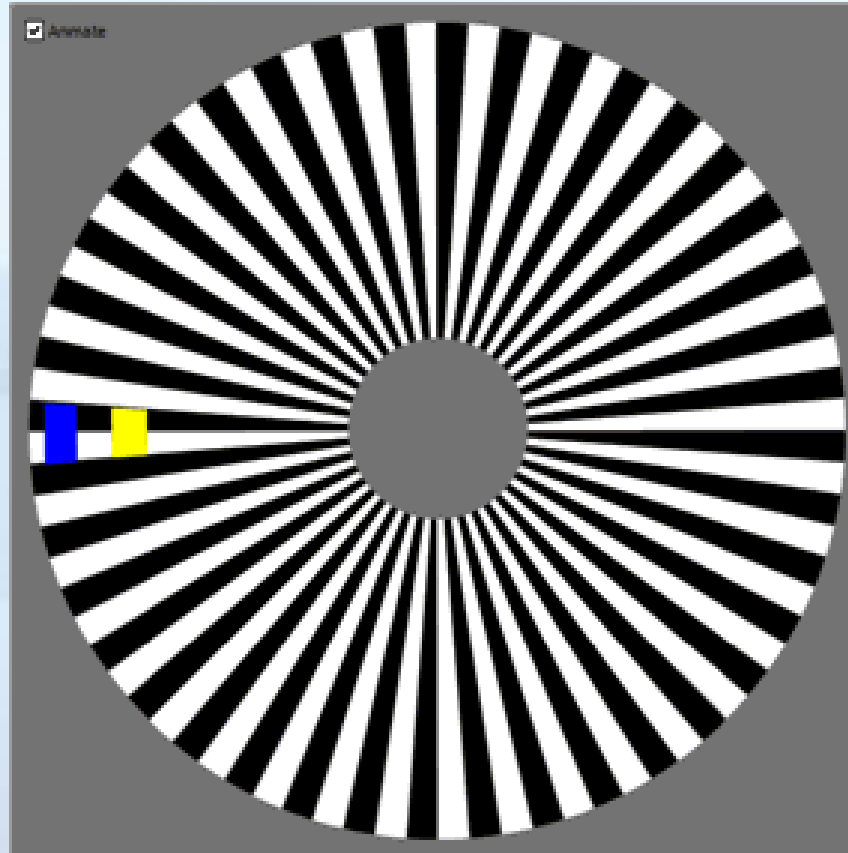
Plato's worldview



prikolis.net

- Are we deceived?

Plato's epistemology



(<http://www.excelhero.com/blog/2010/08/excel-optical-illusions-week-25.html>)

- What is the route to knowledge?

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Part I: The text (15 minutes)

Group 1 [Plato's worldview (Book VI)]: Summarize Plato's worldview by answering (i) what the two worlds are and how you will describe them, (ii) what the roles played by the idea of good and the sun are, and (iii) what the human mind and the eyes are able to do. What properties does the absolute beauty/good have?

Group 2 [Plato's epistemology (Book VI)]: What does the soul do in the two subdivisions of the upper division (the sphere of the intellectual)?

Group 3 [The Cave and education (Book VII)]:

3a. In your major, what do the objects and people (e.g. prisoners, chains, carriers and shadows) symbolize?

3b. After studying the experience of the freed prisoner who went back to the cave, what advice would you give to university students?

Groups 4 and 5 [Modern science and Plato]:

4a. Compare (i) drawing a straight line passing by data points and (ii) Plato's finding the absolute. What are the similarities and differences, if any, between them?

4b. If Plato discovered modern scientific theories, what will he say about them?

Group 6 [Nature of science]:

5a: Consider a car, a bus, a bicycle and a man. Which is the exception? Can you see there are two possible answers?

5b: From 5a, would you say science is always correct? Why?

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Part II: Extension

- Being fettered, being dragged: no freedom.
- But Socrates says the prisoner is **freed**.

Write it down:

6. What has science freed us from?
7. What bondage has science given us?

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(Announcement)

Conclusion

- Cherish your freedom in the world of knowledge.



Announcement

Teaching Schedule:

	Discussion / Lecture		Remark
	14:00-17:30, Tuesday	8:30-12:00, Thursday	
May 10, 12	Introduction / Text 1 (Plato)	Text 1 (Plato) / Text 2 (Newton)	
May 17, 19	Text 2 (Newton) / Text 3 (Darwin)	Text 3 (Darwin) / Text 4 (Carson)	Quiz 1 (Newton), RJ1

- Next week
 - Read Text 2 (Newton)
 - Quiz 1 (on Newton)
 - On Moodle. 8 Multiple-choice questions (choose 1 answer). 12 minutes.
 - Should be done before 2pm, 17 May (Tue).