



**MUHAMMAD HASSAN**  
**COURSE CODE: SSC301**  
**Faculty: Dr. Hafiz Syed Husain**

**STUDENT ID# 20181-24866**  
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## **HISTORY OF IDEAS GRAND FINAL ASSIGNMENT**

### **TOPIC: EPISTEMOLOGY AND CONTEMPORARY**

#### **• BACKGROUND**

##### **EPISTEMOLOGY**

Epistemology is the study of knowledge. It is derived from Greek episteme “Knowledge and Logos which means reason”. It tends to study about the human capability about the knowledge.

It raises different question and Different aspects of human knowledge. Three questions are the fundamental of epistemology. Listed below are the questions;

1. What actually knowledge is?
2. Can we have knowledge?
3. If yes, then how can we get knowledge?

Once the greatest philosopher quoted **“A man is but what he knows”**.

Epistemology is old concept or philosophy but It can be easily relatable with modern world such as 18<sup>th</sup> to onwards centuries. It has a long history started from ancient Greeks, then within western philosophy, and it is still working with having a great impact.

#### **• LITERATURE:**

I would like to start with the back ground of Modern era and then will be discussing term and its impact or effect on modern era. For the purpose let's clear firstly what is modern era and when did it begin?

Modern era started from 1490s onwards 1600. The discovery of America was real modern world. It was a time frame when many researcher and philosopher claimed that Sun doesn't revolve but the earth and other planets revolve around the sun. Before the Plato's, Many told us but there was no justification. However; Copernican: He was able to back his conception by recent development of mathematics of his time. He had claimed the same theory and so as Plato's. Modern era can be understood by distinguishing by this;

- Independent Critical thinking which has the courage to challenge any kind of authority whether cultural, religious, political. Free thinking Spirit, monarch, church.
- Rationalism and empiricism are the products of genesis of the modern world at the level of philosophy. Because of these, the political existence occurs. Identified as Marxism, Democracy.
- Impact of these in the science and political world.

These are the elements of modern era which will be discussed in the whole assignment.



Let's dig in and writing out more explanation about the knowledge whatever I've perceived through the session.

Now;

## **What is knowledge according to epistemology?**

Each and every individual has the right to perceive or understand Knowledge in their own way, pattern and method. Universally, either it is directly or indirectly. Moreover, it is combination of truth, faith and justification. According to philosopher and human capability, Knowledge is fully dependent on these three elements. Of course, this one is debatable but it isn't necessary that everyone agrees. Let's say. If anything is your faith, neither it is right nor you've justification of it people will not consider as it as proper or real knowledge. And so as some time, There is belief and truth but can't be considered as knowledge.

Sometimes according to Plato, it is possible that we've belief and truth but still we'll be hesitating while calling it out as knowledge. Let suppose, you're in a court room and you're the member of judiciary and fair trial is ongoing in front of you and there's accused, a guy and let's say he is the murderer. But no one has the evidence of it. But the prosecutor made the false evidence which seems to be true and judgmental. You considered the accused as criminal and guilty. The evidence was false but still in favor of prosecutor. According to your belief and truth and justification you made him as guilty. But the second day you thought it isn't the way I decided or judged it. And because of false evidence which looks true you made him guilty. Now you feel hesitate on your knowledge. Proper justification is missing and can't be considered as knowledge.

## • **REFERENCING WITH TODAY'S WORLD**

Epistemology is mainly focused on modern world.

It helps one to understand and think about their lives and the experiences and pretend them to think, criticize and evaluate about life performance. Basically it helps to identify what are our ultimate goals of life and for that, one should know the relevant knowledge. There's no doubt in this that experience really does matter as empiricist philosophers said too.

### **In modern:**

There are two sources of knowledge. Either knowledge is sourced from experience or pure reason. In epistemology, reasons mean as intellect. Knowledge is derived from experience or the fundamental intellect. And those who believe in experience are to be called as empiricist. And those who believe in reasoning are to be called as rationalist. Primary source of knowledge is reason. Since, both are source of knowledge.



Claiming any term to refuse or accept is actually knowledge. It can't be claimed within the isolation.

## **Appearance VS Reality:**

Senses and human experience aims at appearance. And pure reason aims at reality. The thing that comes to you, it has two dimensions. One is the way it appears to you and other one is the way it really is. Appearance is fully depended on perception and the way you want to shape it. Thing is real hence, it can't be changed by itself. Epistemology had a good impact on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century. Such as the technology development in west which made them superior to eastern part of the world. After that, colonization of **PAK AND IND** which gave them the opportunity to be part of modernize world. Knowledge is referred as the power and sword of any nation so as eastern had cashed and still cashing up. Western philosopher had contributed a lot in epistemology because of rational thinking.

Another example of modern world influenced with epistemology philosophy is the "**SCIENTIFIC REVOLUTION**" and the contribution of **Descartes**, Leibniz, Spinoza and Newton. Newton didn't only contribute in field of physics but also reflect his intelligence in making sure that the epistemology and knowledge that is driven through reason is good enough to understand.

Reality is all about reason. Rationalism doesn't disagree with the experiences. Even though, they called it as the ladder of pure reasoning. Experience can only facilitate and help to capture the reality.

Reason itself consists of innate ideas/principles.

Pure reason is the organization of innate ideas. Both are directly

## **INNATE Ideas:**

Those ideas which are always part of our reason, every possible justification but even though they are part of every possible reasoning and justification yet they can't be learned from experience.

- Laws of logic (Principles of non-contradiction) There should be no contradiction in reason account.

It means things that are learnt from childhood or simply which have better base and ground position, it is more likely to ignore or shouldn't be talked as much. Since, it is well structured.

- Axioms of geometry (e.g. straight line is the shortest distance b/w two points)

It was understood 150 years ago that these are complex stuffs and can't be easily understandable. You can only understand as it is language though you can't see it or feel it.



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In addition to, one can conduct induction observation or test. But still it is doubtful in modern world. Like; you want to understand the Psyche or personality of a person. You must have to conduct test and evaluate on the basis of knowledge and knowledge has to base upon reason.

Hence, Knowledge based upon inductive reasoning is always doubtful and what is doubtful is not knowledge.

Epistemology also had influenced the modern education. It helps students and internee to think about the structure and their lives critically. Moreover, it also helps teachers, researcher and instructor to evaluate and critically think over the subjects.

In today's world, it is true that every nation is successful just because they don't rely either on senses, perception or human intellect. They have followed both accordingly. However, machinery is manufacture through experiences and induction too but logic and idea that has been driven into account and turned into reality is based upon on reasoning and rational or critical thinking and knowledge.

- **Rationalism:**

Knowledge of appearances comes through senses and it's fallible such that its fallibility can only be overcome with the proper use of reason; thus, its reason that is the "real" source of knowledge

- **Empiricism:**

Knowledge of reality comes from appearances through senses backed up by induction; thus it's "**experience**" which is the "real" source of knowledge

- **Epistemological aim of rationalism is to ground the knowledge on some indubitable foundation**

At last, it is still proven that in modern technology it is verified that logics has more to do then experiments. Numerous examples are in favor of rationalism modern epistemology such as; colonization, scientific theory/ revolution, cosmologies and so on.