

GSP 2205 PHILOSOPHY AND LOGIC

By

MUBARAK A. SAULAWA, Ph.D

masaulawa.edu@buk.edu.ng

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

BAYERO UNIVERSITY, KANO

Module 3:
SCIENCE AND ANALYSIS OF REALITY USING THE
BRANCHES OF PHILOSOPHY

General Overview of the Module

By the end of this module the students should be able to appreciate:

Definitions of Philosophy

Branches of Philosophy

- Metaphysics; Cosmology, ontology and theology
- Epistemology: Meanings and the major types of knowledge, sources of knowledge and the analysis of knowledge that... and knowledge how...
- Axiology: The meanings of value, Categories of value, viz. moral and non-moral, intrinsic and extrinsic, objective and subjective values. Realms of value viz. ethics (meta-ethics: naturalism, intuitionism and emotivism) and aesthetics

Introduction

Science, Philosophy and Analysis of Reality

The search for meanings in life is primarily conducted by ***religion, science and philosophy***. While the religions upon belief in the Supreme God seek for meanings through His signs and creations, as well as prayers and contemplation, by living a good life as a preparation for the hereafter, science on the other hand, mainly seeks the knowledge of facts, their interpretation using what is called the objective scientific methods of observation, experimentation and description (Thakur, 1982:7). Philosophy seeks for ultimate nature of the knowledge of facts, their significance and synthesis of these identified facts and ideas in a total and comprehensive manner, taking both the results of the religions and sciences and by reflecting upon the whole.

Definitions of Philosophy

- ❑ We need to also answer the questions; what is reality? What is science? And then, what is philosophy? When we use the word reality in philosophy, we are referring to the totality of real things in the world that are objectively independent of human perception, which means, the things and phenomena which actually exist in real life situations. While science on the other hand is that body of knowledge which is used in the objective study of the material world and natural phenomena (Encarta Encyclopedia, 2009).
- ❑ Philosophy is a synoptic discipline in which all facts and information from diverse other disciplines are integrated and synthesised to give a comprehensive perspective (Pheonix in Akinpelu, 2005:138). It is an academic field of study which involves the art of making critical clarifications through analysis and reading between the lines, in order to illuminate or cast light into the darkness of ignorance, so as to come up with rational answers to the questions of reality, knowledge and values (Saulawa, 2014).

Metaphysics

- ❖ Metaphysics is a branch of philosophy that deals with pure abstractions that are considered to be in existence but cannot be perceived by the human senses. For example, the soul, mind, spirits and God (Saulawa, n.d.).
- Subdivisions of metaphysics could be: ontology, cosmology, theology, theodicy, etc. but only the first three shall be considered here.
- ❖ **Ontology:** The study of Being, the nature of man; his psyche and predispositions. Ontology simply deals with the Creator and his creation.
- ❖ **Cosmology:** Cosmology is the science of material universe, which studies the nature of the cosmos and their first causes. In this module we shall philosophically view it from the angle of their source of control using reason and theology.
- ❖ **Theology:** This is an offshoot of ontology, though standing independently on its own, theology studies religions as they relate with the Divine. We shall consider how the creation connects with the creator through both polytheistic and monotheistic religions.

Epistemology

Episteme + *logos* = Study of the nature of knowledge from the etymology. We shall discuss the major kinds of knowledge and also analyse the concept from knowledge how... and knowledge that...

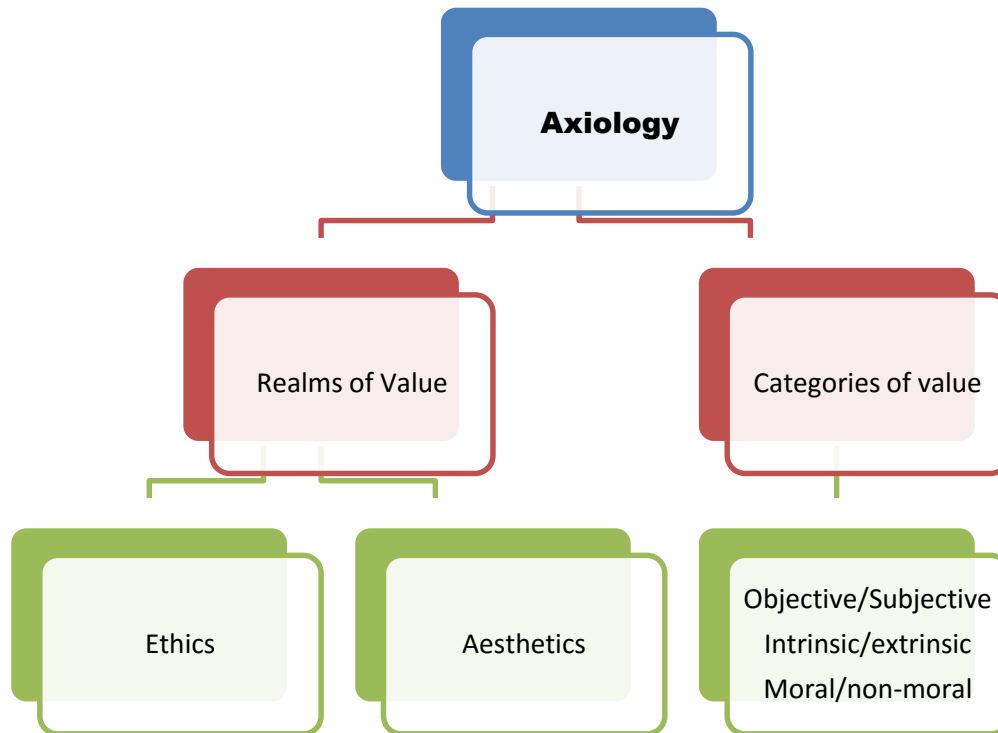
Kinds of Knowledge: A priori (before or without experience) and a posteriori (after or with experience).

Sources of knowledge:

- Reason (Logic, mathematics etc.)
- Revelation (Qur'an, Bible and Torah)
- Intuition (insights)
- Empirical (sensory)
- Authority (specialists)
- Acquaintance (E.g Classmates, course mates, etc)

Axiology

Axios (of like value, or worth) + *logos* (study), the study of the nature of values or preferences. Values primarily refer to those objects which we cherish, appreciate, want, desire or need.



Source: Saulawa, M. A. (n.d.:75)

Realms of Value

- ❑ **Ethics:** There are basically two dimensions of ethics. Normative and applied ethics; Applied Ethics deals with issues directly related to people's lives e.g. how should we live and die? How should we relate with others? While normative ethics deals with moral standards as to what actions are right and which are wrong? What things should one value? Is life worth living? A typical example of normative ethics lies in the Holy texts of especially the three monotheistic religions (i.e. The Torah, the Bible and the Qur'an), written and unwritten constitutions, ground rules in meetings, seminars, workshops and lectures etc.
- ❑ **Aesthetics:** This second area of axiology deals with feelings, creativity and the appreciation of arts and creations, the beauty of things e.g. music, artistry, landscape, man as an aesthetic being, the beauty and perfection of the heavens and skies etc. this receptive side (i.e. recognition and appreciation of creativeness) is sometimes referred to as aesthetic delight as Collinson in Doyle (1973/2010) would argue.

Categories of value

❑ MORAL AND NON-MORAL VALUES:

Moral : When we are dealing with interpersonal issues between humans

Non-moral: Intrapersonal issues that concerns you alone.

❑ INTRINSIC AND EXTRINSIC VALUES

Intrinsic: Appreciating things or people solely for their own sake

Extrinsic: Appreciating people or things for what they can help us to achieve

❑ SUBJECTIVE AND OBJECTIVE VALUES

Subjective: Personal point of view we place on people, things and activities, e.g. Love, beliefs etc.

Objective: Generally accepted values backed up by reason. E.g. money, water,