Chapter One – Why Philosophy? Is That All There Is?

Roots of Wisdom
6th edition
Helen Buss Mitchell

Chapter Review

The Issued Defined

- In this chapter we take our first look at the early Greeks and their efforts to separate appearance from reality.

- As they examined the world around them in search of the basic "world stuff" from which every particular thing is derived.

Pre-Socratic Cosmologists

All sought to offer a portrait of the cosmos as comprehensible and ordered whole

- Milesians

Sought to establish the fundamental substance underlying the cosmos

  - Thales argued that it was water

  - Anaximander argued that it was what he called "the boundless"

  - Anaximenes argued that it was air

Pre-Socratic Cosmologists

All sought to offer a portrait of the cosmos as orderly and knowable

- Other Monists

Like the Milesians, sought to establish a single substance or principle underlying the seeming multiplicity of the cosmos

  - Pythagoras argued that it was numeric values
  - Heraclitus argued that it was change as regulated by the logos
  - Parmenides argued that it was unchanging being itself

Pre-Socratic Cosmologists

All sought to offer a portrait of the cosmos as orderly and knowable

- Pluralists

Rejected views that ascribed a single substance or principle to the Foundation of the cosmos

- Empedocles argued for four elements (earth, air, fire, water)
- Anaxagoras argued for "germs" or "seeds" in motion
- Democritus argued for "atoms and the void"

Pre-Socratic Philosophers

Philosopher	*Arche*
Thales	Water
Anaximander	The boundless
Anaximenes	Air
Pythagoras	Numbers
Heraclitus	Change (Fire)
Parmenides	Being
Empedocles	Earth, Air, Fire, Water
Anaxagoras	Seeds, or germs
Democritus	Atoms and the void

Cosmogony and Cosmology

Classical Greek philosophers also attempted accounts of the origins or characteristics of the cosmos

- Thales: the earth is a disc floating on water
- Anaximander: the boundless, in motion, gives off heat (fire) and cold (earth, air, water), the motions of which produce the sun, the moon and its phases, and eclipses. Earth is a cylinder hanging in space
- Anaximenes: the earth is a disc floating on air
- Pythagoras: the earth is a sphere; not at the center of heavenly bodies
- Parmenides: the moon reflects the sun's light

The Sophists

- The Sophists are literally the "wise ones"
- Championed individualism and relativism in knowledge
- Using the science of rhetoric, which literally means "public speaking" they asserted they could teach argumentation to anyone.
- Despised by Plato, who blamed them for the death of his teacher and friend, Socrates
- Sophists were accused of making the weaker argument appear stronger and, generally, of distorting the truth.

Classical Period in Greek Philosophy

- Socrates
  - portrayed by Plato as arguing by dialectic, his method of asking questions, which was designed to elicit the truth.
  - maintained that we can remember fundamental knowledge from before the time of our birth
  - refused to relinquish his philosophizing, though it meant his death
- Plato
  - student of Socrates
  - argued via his Cave metaphor in "The Republic" that the senses can be fooled but that reason offers a reliable source of knowledge

Classical Period in Greek Philosophy

- Perictyone
  - developed Pythagoras's ideas regarding harmony in terms of women's roles in society

- Aristotle
  - studied at Plato's Academy
  - developed the doctrine of the golden mean in conduct – habits of character or virtue ethics

Metaphysics, Epistemology and Axiology in Asian Thought

- Buddhism
  - Self not seen as abiding and completely independent
  - Knowing is direct and intuitive

- Pan Chao
  - argued that women require education for the cultivation of virtue

Metaphysics, Epistemology and Axiology in African Thought

- Proverbs as reliable guide to knowledge

- In Akan case, abstract principles rejected in favor of lived experience

- Specific considerations of proper conduct in terms of what benefits the community

The Peoples of the Americas

- Based on the worldview of the indigenous peoples of the Americas, we find a cosmology in the Sun and the Moon are the "pillars of the universe".

- Among the Nahuatl-speaking people in the central Mexican highlands, all that humans ordinarily perceive as the universe is generated by teotl in its "endless process of self-generation and regeneration".

Logic

- In a deductive argument, a group of premises claim to support a conclusion

  - Premises consist of terms, arranged in subject-predicate order as statements

  - When the premises support the conclusion, the argument is valid

  - Only valid arguments, consisting of true premises, are sound [true]

Branches of Philosophy

- Metaphysics – investigates what is real
- Epistemology – deals with the study of knowledge – what it is and how we acquire it
- Axiology – deals with the study of values

Classical Western Philosophy

- **Metaphysics** – reality is composed of separate and discrete units of matter
- **Epistemology** – trusts reason and experimentation
- **Axiology** – values the individual as more important than the group

African Philosophy

- **Metaphysics** – all of reality is part of an integrated whole, which includes nature
- **Epistemology** – knowing is intellectual, physical, and emotional – based in experience
- **Axiology** – values the community as more important than the individual

Buddhism

- **Metaphysics** – reality is a web of interconnectedness; everything is mutually dependent on everything else; there is no separate, independent "self"

- **Epistemology** – knowing is direct and intuitive, rather than rational

- **Axiology** – values the whole web; the law of karma assures that whatever we do we do to ourselves; this continues until we see things as they are, achieving enlightenment

Key Terms

- Cosmos
- Cosmology
- Arche
- Monists
- Pluralists
- Cosmogony
- Metaphysics
- Epistemology
- Axiology
- Ontology
- Philosophy

- Sophists
- Dialectic
- Socratic method
- Apology
- Tripartite soul
- Harmonia
- Ethics
- Golden mean
- Karma
- Samsara
- Teotl
- Stoicism

Chapter Two – Reality and Being
Is What You See What You Get?

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Chapter Review

The Issued Defined

- Does something "real" underlie the world of appearances?
- What is the difference between everyday reality and virtual reality?
- Do things happen at random in the cosmos, or is there order and purpose?
- Is it possible to speak about external reality in a definitive way?

Reality and the Brain

- Certain ways of apprehending what seems to be real, such as a single simultaneous field of space, may be learned behaviors
- Reality is constructed by us, raising questions about what is really "out there"

Ontology

- Plato's idealism
  - Plato's ontology is directly tied to his epistemology (theory of knowledge) and axiology (theory of values).
  - proposed a domain of perfect Forms, separate from the imperfect copies of those same Forms in the material world.
  - argued that the Forms are more real than the material world in which they imperfectly manifest
  - Argued that we can recognize the imperfect imitations of the perfect Forms that exist in this world because we had a glimpse of the other world -- the world of Forms -- before our birth.

Ontology

- Aristotle
  - As a student of Plato, he accepted the basic division of the world into Form and matter
  - Argued, however, that there are no Forms apart from matter – and no matter apart from Forms
  - Stipulated that there are four kinds of cause: material, formal, efficient and final

Ontology

- Buddhism
    - *samsara* entails limitless cycling through reincarnations, until enlightenment or true seeing is achieved
    - things are empty of inherent being, arise together co-dependently, and are mutually interdependent

Ontology

- Taoism
  - Everything comes from, is supported by, and returns to the Tao, which manifests as yin and yang in dynamic complementarity in nature
- Materialism
  - Reality is essentially matter or material
  - The world is like a clock: matter obeying laws of motion; there is no need to attribute intelligence, purpose, or final cause
- Pragmatism
  - Scientific accounts do not necessarily represent an independent reality; they are valuable insofar as they are useful or instrumental in making predictions.

Contemporary Physics and the Nature of Reality

- Quantum mechanics (i.e, physics at the sub-atomic level) appears to undermine classical Western metaphysics and Newtonian mechanics [physics]; we can speak only in terms of probabilities, and the act of observing alters reality

- Relativity suggests that time and space are two aspects of the same thing

- String theory attempts to resolve the apparent conflict between quantum mechanics and the vision of a curving space-time presented in general relativity

Cosmology

- Is there order and purpose in the Universe?

- Greek

  - Some Greek philosophers argued that order and purpose exist. They believe that the universe has a teleological in nature.

  - Plato countered Sophist relativism by arguing, via the Forms, that the cosmos had both a definite order and a moral character

  - Aristotle made a similar counter to the Sophists, not in terms of an objective moral order, but in terms of the four causes, which included a sense of telos, or purpose

Cosmology

- Quantum Theory and Astronomy
  - Advances in physics raise the question of whether there is a discernable overarching cosmic order or not.

Eternal Dimensions

- Hypatia's neoplatonism -- "nous" or cosmic "mind" is the ground of a world soul, out of which emerges both the universe and sentient beings.

- Indigenous Peoples of Mesoamerica and North America tend to see unity, rather than duality; some see everything – matter and spirit – as holy; Nahua conceptions understand this world as a continually transforming configuration of teotl, or sacred energy

- Traditional African worldviews often share this sense of a sacred cosmos – inhabited by humans and a divine being

Eternal Dimensions

- According to the Seneca account of origins, a variety of other beings preceded human habitation of this world; some Maya accounts conceive this world as sung into being by another world

- some Akan accounts from Ghana in Africa portray creation as having been an activity in keeping with the very nature of the Creation deity

- African American Christian worship often fuses the African idea of a sacred cosmos with the role of God as liberator of the oppressed

Key Terms

- Virtual Reality
- Forms
- Idealism
- Entelechy
- Samsara
- Bodhisattva
- Skandhas
- Net of Indra
- Tao
- Yin/yang
- Ch'i

- Materialism
- Pragmatism
- Quantum mechanics
- Uncertainty principle
- String Theory
- Teleology
- Relativism
- Neoplatonism
- Nous
- Teotl

Chapter Three – Human Nature
Who or What Are We, And What Are We Doing Here?

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Chapter Review

The Issued Defined

- What is human nature?
- If a computer can pass for a human being, does this mean there are no essential differences between humans and computers?
- Are human beings unique among animals?
- Is there something that sets us apart and makes us human?

A Case Study

- An African Grey parrot, named Alex by his owner Professor Irene Pepperberg, had a parrot's capacity to imitate human speech sounds. However, with the brain size of a shelled walnut, Alex demonstrated his capacity for thought and intention.

- Sometimes, Alex even used to give the right answer to.

- What distinguishes Alex the African Grey parrot from human beings?

Human Nature

- Avocado View
  - An enduring, stable self is seen as existing at the core of a person

- Artichoke View
  - A person is understood as protean with no enduring stable core

Human Nature
Avocado View

- Effect of Western Essentialism on Women

  - Plato and Aristotle valued reason as defining human nature; both identified men more with the rational element and women more with the irrational element – emotions and the body

  - Plato did assert that women and men with the right nature could aspire to be philosopher-king

  - However, in the fourth century, the Christian Church debated whether women were made in the image of God – or, instead, in the image of man

Human Nature
Avocado View

- The Islamic Tradition

  - humans (male and female) are created in the "form of God [Allah]"

  - no original sin – instead, forgetfulness

  - humans have dual status, as servant and viceregent of God

  - nafs – the false, temporary identities that keep humans from experiencing their true spiritual essence

Human Nature
Artichoke View

- Existentialism or the self-created self

  - stands in contrast with the essentialist views of Plato and Aristotle

  - asserts that a person comes into being as a bare existence and exists without a fixed essence

  - by choosing and standing accountable for our choices, we can create a "self"

Human Nature
Artichoke View

- Nahua Three Element Balance Model

  - Tonalli, which resides in the head, provides vigor and vital energy for growth and development

  - Teyolia, which resides in the heart, provides memory, emotion, knowledge, and wisdom

  - Ihiyotl, which resides in the liver, provides passion, bravery, and happiness

  - only during human life on earth are these three forces fully commingled in a human person

  - working in harmony they can produce a mentally, physically, and morally pure, upright, whole, and balanced person

Non-Western Views

- Hinduism and Buddhism
  - in some Hindu thinking, a stable core self, or atman, persists and is identical with Brahman, the ultimate ground of being
  - in contrast, Buddhist doctrines propose the opposite of atman, i.e. "anatman" to describe the nature of the human person: there is no permanent, separate self

Non-Western Views

- Chinese Five Element View
  - Some Taoist thinking portrays the person as composed of the same five elements (fire, wood, metal, earth and water) that make up the rest of the cosmos

- African Synthesis Model
  - Some African thought understands a complementary equality of male and female principles evidenced in the same figure – whether it be a High God or a human child.

Meaning of Life

- Non-Western Views
  - creativity in African thought
  - harmony and balance in Taoist thought
  - enlightenment in Buddhist thought

- Western Views

  Sense of a unique human nature has led to conceiving of the meaning of life in terms of the meaning of being human

Human Identity and Freedom

- To what extent do racial and ethnic labels, as well as gender, shape how we think of ourselves?

- Is it even possible to ignore our physical characteristics?

- Is it possible to be color-blind or gender-blind?

- Are race, gender and sexual orientation the source of prejudice and the basis of discrimination? Or the foundation for pride and group solidarity?

- Race, gender and sexual orientation as examples of the variables sometimes involved in addressing questions of the meaning of life and/or of being human

Key Terms

- Hadith
- Al-ghaflah
- Al-fitrah
- Al-'abd
- Al-khalifah
- Jihad
- Nafs
- Patriarchy
- Feminism
- pathe

- Modernism
- Postmodernism
- Atman
- Anatman
- Skandhas
- Enlightenment
- Nirvana
- Ch'i
- Tonalli
- Teyolia
- Ihiyotl
- Mawu/Lisa
- Okra
- Behaviorism
- Androgyny
- Plastic

Chapter Four – Philosophy and Ultimate Reality
Is Anyone in Charge?

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Chapter Review

The Issued Defined

- Does God exist?
- What is the nature of God?
- In the West, questions about the nature of ultimate reality center on the existence or nonexistence and the nature of God. However, some Western investigations into the nature of ultimate reality discover a nontheistic, or at least a nontraditional God. Although much of this chapter will explore Western theism, keep in mind that the question of ultimate reality is much broader in world philosophy.

Agnosticism

- Suspends the question of God's existence as ultimately unknowable

- Rejected as untenable by William James

- Pascal's wager intended as breaking the deadlock proposed by agnosticism

Pascal's Wager

- GOD exists, and we do not believe.
- GOD does not exist, and we believe.
- GOD does not exist, and we do not believe.
- GOD exists, and we believe.
- What is the best bet?

Atheism

- The denial of Theism

- Usually rests on the assumption that everything can be explained satisfactorily without God

- Asserts that God is an unnecessary and unverifiable hypothesis

Deism

- Eighteenth-century development; particularly in France and America
- Christianity is reconceived so as to make it consonant with scientific understandings
- Supernatural elements (revelation, miracles, divinity of Jesus) eliminated
- An impersonal, mechanical genius began the world and has since left it alone

Pantheism and Panentheism

- Pantheism is the belief that God is fully expressed in nature or the material world.

- Panentheism sees God as immanent in the world but also independent of that same world and unchanging

- In Alfred North Whitehead's process thought, God both affects and is conditioned by events in the temporal world

Theism

- Arguments for God's existence
  - Knowledge based on Reason
    - Ontological Argument
      - Formulated by Anselm as a logical argument, based on the nature of thought; God's perfection implies his existence; later refuted by Kant as illogical
    - Cosmological Arguments
      - Formulated by Aristotle and popularized in the Middle Ages by Aquinas; God seen as the unmoved mover, the uncaused cause, a necessary being, the standard of perfection, and a source of order and purpose
    - Teleological Argument
      - Formulated by Aquinas and later attacked by Hume; an argument based on the design, order, and apparent purpose of the universe, which argues for a divine cause

Theism

- Knowledge based on Intuition
    - Mystical experience, as described by Rudolf Otto and exemplified by figures like Mechthilde of Magdeburg and Hildegard of Bingen, regarded as a reliable source of the knowledge of God

- Hindu practice
    - Divine reality with attributes, or Saguna Brahman, realized in images used for puja and darshan

Traditional Images of God

- God as eternal; refuted by Nietzsche
- God as omnipotent and omniscient, as defended by Aquinas and refuted by Whitehead
- God as good, raising challenges in accounting for the existence of evil
- God as human-like -- anthropomorphism

Theodicy

- Theodicy is concerned with explaining and justifying the existence of evil in light of the goodness of God.

- Does it make sense for God to be all-good and, yet, evil to exist?

Nontraditional Images of God

- God as Mother, as proposed by Mary Baker Eddy and Charlotte Perkins Gilman
- Jesus as Mestizo, as proposed by Virgil Elizondo
- Religious Existentialists: the important thing is the nature of the God-person relationship
- God as verb, as proposed by Rabbi David Cooper
- Akan views of Creator deity as cosmic architect, not creator-out-of-nothing

Implications of Theism for Human Nature, Cosmology

- Whether or not God exists has implications for human life and meaning, as suggested by William James

- Convictions regarding the possibility or impossibility of life after death can also be momentous in terms of the impact on the meaning of human life

Ultimate Reality

- Described in Zen as beyond words and concepts … and right in front of us

- Described in Taoism as the Tao – manifest in the natural world and available to us as a teacher [the metaphysics of nature]

- Described by Eastern mystics and Quantum Theory as an inseparable web, whose connections are dynamic and not static

Key Terms

- Theism
- Atheism
- Agnosticism
- Pascal's Wager
- Deism
- Pantheism
- Immanent
- Transcendent
- Panentheism
- Theology
- Monotheism
- Polytheism
- Trinity
- Natural Theology
- Ontological Argument
- Cosmological Argument
- Teleological Argument

- Mystical experience
- Dhikr
- Fana
- Baqa
- Noetic
- Puja
- Henotheism
- Darshan
- Brahman
- Saguna Brahman
- Nirguna Brahman
- Imago dei
- Omnipotence
- Omniscience
- Theodicy
- Logos
- Theocracy
- Anthropomorphism
- Existentialism
- Occam's Razor
- Secular Humanism

Chapter Five – Knowledge Sources
Do You See What I See?

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Chapter Review

The Issue Defined

- What is knowledge?

- What means can guarantee our access to reliable and legitimate knowledge?

Epistemology

- Attempts to establish criteria for legitimate and reliable knowledge

- Examples of knowledge theory include: Rationalism, Empiricism, Intuition

Rationalism

- Rene Descartes
    - Doubted all things but his capacity for doubt/thought
    - From this was established his existence ("I think, therefore I am") as well as that of God, and reason in human beings
    - Advocated two substances in the cosmos: matter and mind – differing in every conceivable way and setting up the mind-body problem (how can they interact?)

Rationalism

- Mind-Body Problem
  - Spinoza
    - God is one substance with two aspects: mind and matter
  - Leibniz
    - Monads exist in harmony pre-established by God; no divide between mind and matter
  - Anne Finch
    - Mind and matter exist along a single continuum – material to spiritual
  - Akan
    - Mind and matter exist along a single continuum – material to quasi-material

British Empiricism

- John Locke
  - Distinguished primary and secondary qualities
- George Berkeley
  - argued against viability of distinction between primary and secondary qualities
  - Argued that to be is to be perceived, and that God is the guarantor of things being perceived
- David Hume
  - Formulated a radical skepticism regarding sensory data

Hume's Fork

- By insisting that we cannot know anything about the character of the world as it exists apart from our sense perception, Hume radically restricted the territory in which philosophy can reasonably operate: (1) relations of ideas, and (2) matters of fact.

- *Hume's Fork* leaves us with a choice between: (1) ideas that are certain but do not tell us anything we want to know, and (2) ideas that tell us things we want to know but are not certain.

Broadening Logic
Proverbs and Intuition

- In some African and Asian contexts, other formats complement formal logic

  - African proverbs and art motifs reflect the logic of lived experience and provide a cultural balance to logical abstraction

  - Taoist recognition that logic alone can lead to yang excess; emotion alone can lead to yin excess – harmony is the goal

Kant

- Distinguished phenomena (things as they appear) from noumena (things as they are); we can only speak about reality as it appears to us, having been filtered by the categories of perception

- Advocated the active role of the mind in ordering perception and shaping reality for the perceiver

- Created a synthesis between rationalism and empiricism that permitted Western philosophy to move beyond Hume's radical skepticism

Knower and Known

- West
  - Plato and Aristotle thought in terms of a clear distinction between subject and object

- Non-West
  - Some Asian and African approaches deny a sharp subject/object distinction, seeing it as artificial

Key Terms

- Egocentric predicament
- Epistemology
- Cogito
- Solipsism
- Innate
- Cartesian circle
- Substance
- Mind-body problem
- Monad
- Pre-establish harmony
- Okra
- Mogya

- Sunsum
- adwene
- Empiricism
- Tabula rasa
- Skepticism
- Hume's fork
- Logical positivism
- Phenomena/noumena
- Synthetic a priori

Chapter Six – Truth Tests
Do You Swear to Tell the Truth…?

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Chapter Review

The Issue Defined

- In this chapter, we explore how we determine which of the many things we believe deserve the label *true*.

- We will look at several tests for truth and how they work.

- Once we have established a few ground rules, we turn to the fields of religion, science, history and literature to see how questions of truth are addressed in each of them.

Laws of Thought

- Law of noncontradiction: A and non-A can't both be true simultaneously
- Law of the excluded middle: a thing is either A or non-A
- Law of identity: A is A (a reformulation of the law of noncontradiction)

Warrantability

- Offers a form of evidence or justification for a proposition. Examples include logic, semantics, systematic coherence, testimony and empirical evidence

- Warrants have no necessary relationship to truth; something can be both warranted and false or unwarranted and true

Correspondence

- To be true, a proposition must match with objects or events in the outside world

- Bertrand Russell championed this view; W.V.O. Quine challenged it

- The egocentric predicament also challenges this view; an example is the unknowability of Kant's noumena

Coherence

- To be true, a proposition must be consistent with a larger body of other propositions – the whole system is true or false
- Coherent falsity can be difficult to distinguish from coherent truth, and coherent systems begin with initial propositions that must pass the correspondence test

Pragmatism

- To be true, a proposition must be able to produce the desired results – it must work

- What is true makes a difference, clarifies our understanding, changes our lives

- Truth is not a fixed or static quality, but a part of the unfolding meaning that lived experience gives to something

Ewe Creativity

- Truth understood in terms of "nyano," ("planting the truth"), i.e., its generative capacity.

- Begins with pragmatism and adds the extension that truth will "grow" and bear fruit, whereas falsehood (being dead) does not have the power to germinate and flower

Truth in Zen

- Practices such as zazen (sitting meditation) and the use of koans understood as affording ordinary persons an opportunity to change the operation of their minds such that they can directly apprehend reality.

- Truth is the present moment – past and future do not exist – and truth is the everyday, the mundane, the earthy

- The only warranty is one's personal experience

Truth in Religions of the Book

- Sacred texts are regarded as the source of truth, and a divine being can be seen as providing the ultimate warranty

- Revealed materials can be available potentially to anyone

- Mystical experience and revelations are restricted to private experiences of particular individuals

Truth in Science

- Paradigms are tightly coherent models for understanding reality. Because they are widely held and reflected in all texts and curricula, they tend to be invisible – until an experiment does not produce the expected results

- Thomas Kuhn has argued that moments of scientific revolution amount to changes in paradigms, the foundational sets of assumptions that underlie periods of "normal science"

Truth in History

- History also operates according to paradigms that reflect our current understanding of the world

- As our understanding changes, our conclusions about the meaning of past events also change

- Social history has in recent decades redirected attention away from the "great men" of history to the experiences of all persons in historical periods, drawing on an array of evidence, including court documents, geological data, and material culture

Truth in Texts

- According to the deconstruction test of truth, meaning occurs only through experience and texts are being reinterpreted continuously

- Derrida's deconstruction offers ways to question texts and take apart their artificial constructions to reveal their hidden meanings.

Elusive Truth

- N. Scott Momaday has argued that one can speak in terms of "the native [i.e., Native American] perspective" regarding time, and that this perspective is at odds with notions of time as moving constantly at a regular rate; this raises the possibility of asking questions regarding the truth about time

- Anthony Damscio has proposed that a covert system in the brain is responsible for the "truth" gained in having hunches about good or bad decisions

Key Terms

- Law of noncontradiction
- Law of the excluded middle
- Law of identity
- Warrant
- Correspondence test
- Theoretical posits
- Realist/representationalist view
- Antirepresentationalist view
- Coherence test
- Pragmatic test

- Creativity test
- Sitting
- Koan
- Beginner's mind
- Paradigm
- Deconstruction

Chapter Seven – Aesthetic Experience
Is Truth Beauty and Beauty Truth?

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Chapter Review

The Issue Defined

- In this chapter we consider the medium of *aesthetic experience*, look at some philosophical reflections on the beautiful, and examine the role art can play in bringing us to aesthetic forms of knowing. Our focus will be less on aesthetics than on an aesthetic approach to examining truth.

Functions of Art in Society

- Plato regards art as copies of appearances in the material world (i.e., copies of copies), twice removed from the Forms and able to be used for propaganda
- Aristotle regards art as able to perform a cathartic function
- Robert Browning has criticized even art that is perfect in its imitation for failing to have "soul"
- Artists, like Celtic poets, have sometimes functioned in the role of priest
- Art can act as a form of Zen practice, disciplining the mind
- African art has been interpreted as an artist serving as a conduit for the Supreme Being

Art and Beauty

- In the *Symposium,* Plato explores the relationship between love and beauty
- Socrates explains that *eros* or earthly love can function as art does to link the temporal and the spiritual
- Through ascending forms of love, Socrates contends, humans can achieve the love of beauty in itself

Truth and Beauty

- Keats asserted that truth and beauty are two aspects of one ultimate reality

- Buddhist doctrines of emptiness find a realization in some Asian art

- Chinese and Japanese landscape painting helps us reach beyond words to the inner knowledge and wisdom that are too deep for verbal expression

Truth and Beauty in Western Philosophy

- Schelling
  - Responded to Kant's assertion that the noumenal is unknowable
  - Artistic creation seen as fusing subject and object
  - Aesthetic intuition offers knowing through aesthetic experience
- Schopenhauer
  - most art forms copy the Ideas of the Will
  - music copies the Will itself in order to transcend it
  - human beings are natural slaves to the Will

Truth and Beauty in Western Philosophy

- Neitzsche
  - Socrates, the theoretical man, has ruined Greek tragedy
  - tragedy combined the individuating Appolonian impulse and the ecstatic loss of self evidenced in the Dionysian impulse
  - the rebirth of tragedy could signal the return of the aesthetic hearer, i.e, the person able to properly emotionally respond to art

- Heidegger
  - human persons as instances of being-in-the-world
  - truth verification not so much a matter of mimesis as unconcealing
  - artworks bring truth into being in historically specific ways

Art as a Vehicle for Experiencing the World Differently

- Impressionism reveals the effect of light in changing the appearance of an object
- Cubism dissects a form and then reconstructs it, using the entire surface area of a painting
- Museums and exhibitions have used juxtaposition and art installations to pose questions about reality, as well as to consider the consequences of race and gender for human beings
- Art has served as a healing response to trauma

Key Terms

- Noetic
- Ineffable
- Aesthetics
- Mimesis
- Catharsis
- Beginner's mind
- Symposium

- Hubris
- Eros
- Aesthetic intuition
- Aesthetic contemplation
- Shadow self
- Theoretical man
- Aesthetic hearer
- Being-in-the-world
- Unconcealment/revealment
- Axiology

Key Terms

- Noetic
- Ineffable
- Aesthetics
- Mimesis
- Catharsis
- Beginner's mind
- Symposium

- Hubris
- Eros
- Aesthetic intuition
- Aesthetic contemplation
- Shadow self
- Theoretical man
- Aesthetic hearer
- Being-in-the-world
- Unconcealment/revealment
- Axiology

Chapter Eight – Political Philosophy
Is Big Brother Watching?

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Chapter Review

The Issue Defined

- In this chapter, we focus on political philosophy, particularly the relationship between the individual and the state.

- Where does the right to rule originate?

- Must a ruler receive authority from a higher power, or does the right to govern derive from the consent of the governed?

Theories of the Right to Rule

- Plato's Philosopher-King
  - children who show promise for leadership should be raised and trained for that role by the state
  - philosopher-kings are those who have successfully completed their training since childhood and are therefore fit to rule as benevolent dictator
  - women as well as men are eligible for this role

Social Contract Theory

- An agreement among citizens or between the ruler and ruled that defines the rights and duties of each

- Thomas Hobbes argued that our aggressive, destructive human nature forces us to set up a powerful, restraining state

- John Locke saw a benign human nature and asserted that the state's only justification was to protect the natural rights of citizens

Theories of the Right to Rule

- Natural Law
  - Stoics introduced "logos," or rational principle, as evidenced both in human nature and the natural world
  - Aristotle used the notion of natural law to argue that human beings are "political animals," drawn into political arrangements by nature
  - Thomas Aquinas developed the notion of natural law, attributing it to God and arguing that it served as a basis to disobey conflicting human laws

Natural Rights and Feminism

- Mary Wollstonecraft argued that no difference between men and women was significant with regard to capacity for leadership
- Elizabeth Cady Stanton evoked the "Declaration of Independence" in her "Declaration of Sentiments" to declare that "all men and women are created equal" and to argue for equality of rights under the law for men and women
- Susan B. Anthony agitated for women's right to vote in the U.S.; she was arrested for voting illegally and tried in a federal court [*The United States of America v Susan B. Anthony*]; more than forty years elapsed before women were given the right to vote

The Right to Govern

- Hegel rejected the notion of the individual as independent of the state; and saw the Absolute as using individuals in history to guide history
- Mandate of Heaven cast the Chinese emperors in the role of the medium of Heaven's will for the empire; an office that could be revoked if not properly enacted
- Some Taoist thought advocates *wu-wei, a* form of action or leadership that mimics the Tao's effortless, ego-free, efficiency and avoids both strife and conflict
- Some European kings argued for the divine right of kingship, i.e., absolute sovereignty
- Rulers in Buganda and among the Akan acted on more cooperative models of leadership

Political Theory

- Nineteenth-century liberalism combined the laissez-faire economics of Adam Smith with the political views of John Locke
- Nineteenth-cetury conservatives like Edmund Burke upheld the value of what they regarded as tradition in a person's moral and civic formation
- Contemporary liberals and conservatives retain their core values but have modified their views on the role of government

U.S. Constitution and Civil Rights

- James Madison installed checks and balances into the Constitution to restrain any of the three branches of government – executive, legislative, and judicial – from attempting tyranny

- Civil rights, assured in The Bill of Rights (the first ten amendments to the Constitution) have been upheld as ideals but not always equally applied to citizens

Key Terms

- State
- Totalitarianism
- Anarchism
- Natural Law
- Natural Rights
- Liberal
- Conservative
- Sovereignty
- Eternal Law
- Divine Law
- Civil Disobedience
- Social Contract

- Hegel's dialectic
- Cunning of reason
- Formal/Substantial freedom
- Wei-wu-wei
- Laissez-faire economics
- Checks and balances

Chapter Nine – Social Philosophy
Am I My Brother's or My Sister's Keeper?

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Chapter Review

The Issue Defined

- Questions of justice - the primary philosophical issue of social philosophy - are rooted in whether we see our own welfare and the welfare of others as connected or separate.

- How should people be treated? On the basis of their merit? Should the beautiful/handsome, talented, and high born be treated according to one standard and the ordinary by another?

- Should those who may be expected to advance the social good be given special advantages and rewards?

Classical Theories of Justice

- Plato
  - in a polis, each fulfills their role
  - three classes exist, each corresponding to one of the three elements in human nature (reason, spirit, appetite)
- Aristotle
  - like Plato, advocated benevolent dictatorship
  - the state comes before the individual
  - merit assigns different positions to individuals

Utilitarianism

- The greatest pleasure for the greatest number at the least expense is calculated to determine social policy

- A hidden assumption is that some members of society might be required to sacrifice for the benefit of the "greatest number"

Justice as Fairness

- What is upheld is what is fair to individuals, not what is best for the society as a whole

- Marx decried what he saw as alienation in industrial laborers

- Rawls advocated justice in terms of the equal liberty principle and the difference principle, using the "original position" to envision a truly just society

- Nozick advocated the entitlement theory, protecting justice in holding and justice in transfer; he supported anarchism, as well as multiple utopias

African American Social Philosophy

- emphasis has varied between advocates of assimilation (Douglass and King) and separatism (Delaney and Malcolm X)
- Du Bois portrayed blacks as suffering from double consciousness; Malcolm X put forward psychic conversion as the solution
- Cornel West has expanded upon earlier visions to offer a broader ideal of justice

Mexican American Social Philosophy

- Cesar Estrada Chavez and Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales reflect the tension between assimilation and separatism

- In creating (with Dolores Huerta) the United Farm Workers, Chavez insisted on non-violence, blending political protest with deep religious faith

- In his leadership of *La Raza Unida,* Gonzales advocated *chicano* pride and the reclaiming of Aztlan, land ceded under pressure to the United States at the end of the Mexican-American War

Feminist Social Philosophy

- Beauvoir described women's position as one of alterity or otherness

- Charlotte Perkins Gilman advocated economic self-sufficiency for women, along with large-scale changes in domestic labor

- Audre Lorde argued that as a result of multiple lines of oppression, all persons could be seen to harbor roles of both oppressor and oppressed

War and Its Justifications

- Christian Just War theory and Islamic Jihad as parallel examples of criteria formulated for the purpose of determining legitimate justifications for going to war, as well as legitimate conduct, once involved in war

- The role of martyr is also parallel in both traditions

Communitarianism

- A move away from models upholding the individual to ones that emphasize sociality and community – long practiced in traditional cultures

- Ignacio Ellacuria, S.J. emphasizes that the common good is above the particular good

- Charles Taylor distinguishes between fundamental rights and lesser privileges

- Cosmopolitanism proclaims the family and nation as artificial and advocates the ideal of world citizenship

Key Terms

- Merit
- Utilitarianism
- Hedonism
- Alienation
- Equal liberty principle
- Difference principle
- Original position
- Entitlement theory
- Consensus

- Assimilationists
- Separatist
- Black power
- Psychic conversion
- Double consciousness
- Patriarchal
- Feminists
- Alterity
- Jihad
- Just War Theory
- Communitarianism
- Cosmopolitanism

Chapter Ten – Ethics
What Will it Be: Truth or Consequences?

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Chapter Review

The Issue Defined

Western Ethical Theories

- **Teleological Theories**
  - ethics formulated in terms of consequences; an action is right or wrong because of what results

Western Ethical Theories

- **Teleological Theories**
  - ethics formulated in terms of consequences; an action is right or wrong because of what results

- **Deontological Theories**
  - ethics formulated in terms of adherence to duty or obligation; an action is right or wrong if it follows the path of duty, regardless of the consequences

Western Ethical Theories

- Natural Law Theory
  - Morality understood as being stable and inhering in the natural order of things (e.g., ethics emerging out of a regard for life as inherently sacred or for human beings as inherently dignified)

Western Ethical Theories

- Natural Law Theory
  - Morality understood as being stable and inhering in the natural order of things (e.g., ethics emerging out of a regard for life as inherently sacred or for human beings as inherently dignified)

- Interest View
  - The moral status of someone or something established on the basis of their having interests; i.e, claims can be made upon us on the basis of someone or something being concerned about what becomes of them

Western and Asian Ethical Theories

- Virtue Ethics
    - Morality understood in terms of the formation of the actor; one acts on the basis of the kind of person one wants to become (e.g., reasonable, caring)

Western and Asian Ethical Theories

- Virtue Ethics
  - Aristotle understood virtue as arising from our uniquely human ability to reason – to discover the moral virtues and practice them in order to cultivate the habits of character that lead to moderation

Western and Asian Ethical Theories

- Virtue Ethics
  - Confucius understood that acquiring the habits of a virtuous character was necessary for creating social stability and human flourishing; he advocated a "womb to tomb" course in virtue, beginning in the home

Western and Asian Ethical Theories

- Virtue Ethics
  - Modern virtue theorists mistrust reason as a reliable guide to virtuous behavior and hold as an ideal the caring self, rather than the rational self; the question to ask is: what would my ideal caring self do?

Asian and African Ethical Theories

- Buddhist Ethical Theories
  - Actions evaluated in terms of resulting karma, which can have an impact on the continuing ignorance – and thus suffering – of both the actor and the acted upon
  - Take the web of interconnectedness as a given

Asian and African Ethical Theories

- African Ethical Theories
    - Frequently humanistic and communitarian in character
    - Take for granted the irreducible dignity of the human person

Human Freedom: How Much Do We Have?

- Determinism
  - Persons cannot be held accountable; actions are the result of causes beyond the control of the actors

Human Freedom: How Much Do We Have?

- Existentialism
  - Human beings are radically free and thus profoundly accountable

Human Freedom: How Much Do We Have?

- Restorative Justice
  - Understands forgiveness as integral to a resolution of past affronts – all human beings share a linked fate; both dehumanization and reconciliation affect the entire community

Issues in Human Freedom

Cloning, genetic engineering, the status of a fetus, the demands of friendship, and international responsibility as examples of frontiers in human accountability

Environmental Ethics

- Greek legacy of a human/nature split prompts corrective responses

- Ecocentrism puts the ecosystem first and assumes the intrinsic value of the natural world

- Ecofeminism links the dominance of women by men and the dominance of the environment by humans and challenges both systems of domination

Key Terms

- Ethics
- Normative ethics
- Metaethics
- Teleological
- Deontological ethical theories
- Categorical imperative
- Natural Law Theory
- Sacredness of human life
- Interest view
- Moral status
- Virtue ethics
- Ethic of care
- Karma
- Life principle

- Golden rule
- Silver rule
- Syntropy
- Hard determinism
- Soft determinism/conpatibalism
- Existentialism
- Atheistic existentialism
- Bad faith
- Excusability
- Restorative justice
- Ubuntu
- Ecocentrism
- ecofeminism