

Introduction to Philosophy (PHIL101)

09/10/2024

Wednesday

Socrates,

Doesn't have any writings.

Oracle in Delphi said "No one is wiser than Socrates", which caused Socrates to go on his quest to prove the Oracle wrong, by finding the wisest person in Athens.

Elenchus → Cross examination that Socrates did.

Irony

(>Pulling a Socrates)

Check out Oracles in ancient Greece, might be useful. [MFs tended to speak in riddles]

Plato,

Form of Justice, evolved from (not really sure):

The Divided Line

Opinion -----> Knowledge

16/10/2024

Wednesday

Symposium:

Phaedrus' Speech

Eros doesn't have any parents, according to Hesiod's poem.

He says the greatest thing is having a worthy lover.

Shame for things ugly, ambition for things beautiful. (>Quite subjective innit mate?)

A man in love would feel the greatest shame when exposed to his lover if he acts ugly.

"For a man in love would surely not let himself be seen by his beloved, beyond all others, deserting his post or throwing down his arms; he would choose to die many times before that."

"Thus then I claim that Eros is eldest and most honoured of gods, and most authoritative in respect to possession of virtue and happiness for men both living and dead."

Pausanias' (The Paedophile) Speech

Two Aphrodites—heavenly (older) and common (younger)

[The Boy Lover]

"For every action is as follows: in and of itself it is neither beautiful nor ugly."

“Thus, then, not all loving and Eros are beautiful nor worthy of an encomium, but only the Eros that turns us toward loving beautifully.”

“But the Eros of the Heavenly Aphrodite, first, does not partake of female but only of male—it is the Eros for boys—and next is elder, and without share of outrage or wantonness. This is why those inspired by this Eros turn to the male, delighting in what is by nature stronger and possessed of more intelligence.”

(>He at least seems to oppose molesting young boys, and rather goes with pubescent ones.)

“Bear in mind that it is held to be more beautiful to love openly than in secret.”

“The vulgar lover, who loves the body more than the soul, is base; he is inconstant because the thing he loves is inconstant. For as soon as the bloom of the body he once loved fades, "he takes off and flies," many speeches and promises disdained. But the lover of a worthy character abides through life, for he is joined to what is constant.”

Eryximachus’ Speech

> *“The medical perspective”*

Love is not specific to humans—plants and non-human animals (I.E. the workings of the universe)

Love as harmony—medicine, music, athletics, astronomy, agriculture, etc.

-Order, balance agreement

“So all Eros has, in summary, very great power, or rather all power, but it is the Eros fulfilled in good things accompanied by temperance and justice, both among us and among gods, that has the greatest power and provides all happiness to us and enables us to associate with each other and be friends, even with the gods, who are stronger than we are.”

Love of all things, in a way gives universe it’s balance.

Aristophanes’ Speech

“Split in two story.” (>fucking retarded, I’ve heard smarter arguments for flat earth.)

“There were three sexes among men, not two as now, male and female, but a third sex in addition, being both of them in common.”

“The reason there were three sexes of this sort was that the male originally was the offspring of the Sun, the female of the Earth, and what has a share of both of the Moon, because the Moon also has share of both.”

“They tried to storm Heaven in order to displace the gods.”

“Each of us then is but the token of a human being, sliced like a flatfish, two from one; each then ever seeks his matching token.”

“Men sectioned from the common sex, then called androgynous, are woman-lovers; the majority of adulterers are from this sex, while on the other hand women from this sex are man-lovers and adulteresses. Women sectioned from a woman scant heed to pay men, but are turned rather toward women, and lesbians come from this sex.”

“Those sectioned from a male pursue the masculine; because they are slices of the male, they like men while still boys, delighting to lie with men and be embraced by them. These are the most noble boys and youths because they are by nature most manly.”

“No one can think it is for the sake of sexual intercourse that the one so eagerly delights in being with the other. Instead, the soul of each clearly wishes for something else it can't put into words; it divines what it wishes, and obscurely hints at it.”

Agathon's Speech

Eros is the youngest God—happiest, finest, most beautiful, soft

“For if affected by anything, he is himself not affected by violence—violence does not touch Eros, nor does he act violently when he acts—for everyone willingly serves Eros in everything.”

“Again, who will deny that the creation of all animals is the wisdom of Eros, by whom all animals are born and begotten?”

Socrates' Speech

“I knew nothing about how one should offer any sort of encomium at all.”

“But it turns out, it seems, that fine praise is not this at all, but consists in ascribing the highest and most beautiful attributes to a thing whether it has them or not; it really doesn't matter if it's false.”

Arguing with **Agathon**:

He disproves what Agathon says with simple logic, by pulling a Socrates.

Diotima's Speech (by Socrates)

Diotima argues that there are intermediates between what things are.

“Don't you know, she said, that right opinion without ability to render an account is not knowledge—for how could an unaccountable thing be knowledge?—nor is it ignorance—for how could what meets with what is be ignorance? Right opinion is surely that sort of thing, intermediate between wisdom and ignorance.”

Diotima says that Eros is between good and bad, ugly and beautiful.

Diotima says that Eros is not a god (since he is not purely good and beautiful), **and not a mortal, but in an in-between state.** *Eros is a great divinity she says.*

Diotima says that Eros is the son of Poros and Penia.

Because of his mother he is bad, poor, and ugly. Because of his father he is good, rich, and beautiful.

He is between wisdom and ignorance.

Diotima's definition of Eros: *"Eros is of the good, being his own forever."*

"Eros necessarily desires immortality with the good, from what has been agreed, since its object is to possess the good for itself forever."

"Eros is also love of immortality"

Immortality and Mortal Nature:

"For here, in the animal world, by the same account as before, the mortal nature seeks so far as it can to exist forever and be immortal. It can do so only in this way, by giving birth."

Love exists as a desire to leave a mark and reaching towards immortality.
Aim of love is to strive toward immortality.

"It is for the sake of immortality that this eagerness and love attend upon all."

Creation:

"I think, it is for immortal virtue and the sort of fame which brings glory that everyone does everything, and the more insofar as they are better. For they love the immortal." >Humans partake in actions which have no immediate benefit but are long lasting. (Being remembered.)

"Some men are pregnant in respect to their bodies, she said, and turn more to women and are lovers in that way, providing in all future time, as they suppose, immortality and happiness for themselves through getting children. Others are pregnant in respect to their soul—for there are those, she said, who are still more fertile in their souls than in their bodies with what it pertains to soul to conceive and bear. What then so pertains? Practical wisdom and the rest of virtue—of which, indeed, all the poets are pro-creators, and as many craftsmen as are said to be inventors."

>Honour and leaving children behind I guess.

Alcibiades' Speech

This dude is massively gay for Socrates.

**23/10/2024
Wednesday**

Diotima says love has different forms, one may feel love -passion, desire- by engaging in activities, sports, philosophy, their jobs etc. Eros is with them for these activities.

Only things that man really love is what's good for them.

Diotima's The Ladder of Love:

We love one beautiful person and beget noble sentiments with them. →

We realise beauty is similar in all persons and love all beautiful bodies. →

Beauty of soul outweighs beauty of body. →

We see beauty in activities, institutions, sciences. →

Gazing on the "ocean of beauty" of the sciences, we beget fine ideas. →

Beauty is revealed to us and we contemplate the Form of Beauty.

>Love is chemical reaction, nothing more. You have to take a shit, you shit, you get hungry, you eat, you love someone, you indulge in it. Same league. It is a biological script, it doesn't have a deeper meaning. You love someone and then you stop loving them, either because you start to despise them, you get bored of them, or you die.

Life itself is a biological script, you exist only to continue existing, only to produce offspring, you are programmed to be pitiful in an infinite universe of energy, matter and existence and you are just a tiny tiny spec of it, yet you put yourself in the middle of everything. To be complete and full you need to die, not exist as a consciousness.

Only when you've got nothing to live for, nothing to gain, you realise this and the moment you gain something to live for, it fades away again. No sane and happy person will understand what is written here. They will call it unhealthy, diseased, although it is the truth, they either are oblivious to it, or ignore it. They will entrap you and force you to live, be it psychological or physical, since they enjoy living, so must you. Not every being should have existed, and not every being should continue existing.

30/10/2024

Wednesday

>Talked about Aquinas and commented on his text. Check balls.odt for your own comment.

René Descartes:

"Cogito ergo sum"

>Next week 3rd and 6th meditation and his chat with Elizabeth (read that)

06/11/2024

Wednesday

Descartes (Meditation 6):

The idea of God could only have come from God itself.

Mind-Body Dualism

Res Cogitans – Res Extensa

Holy shit this guy was a fucking psychopath (*tortured animals*) and a suck up, can't even decide which is the worst.

What is imagination? ← Study this

The mind and the body as two distinct substances → ***Cartesian Dualism***

If you manage to separate the mind from the body and keep it operable it won't make any mistakes.

Passions of the Soul (1649)

12/11/2024

Tuesday

Berkeley:

The First Meditation:

Sensible things are ones that can be immediately perceived.

Look at the twilight, sky has different colours at that moment, you perceive the colours but you don't perceive why the sky looks like that. That is immediate perception of sensible things.

"I did say that a sceptic is someone who doubts everything; but I should have added, '... or who denies the reality and truth of things'."

"I tell you once and for all that by 'sensible things' I mean only things that are perceived by sense, and that the senses perceive only what they perceive immediately; because they don't make inferences."

"To exist is one thing, and to be perceived is another."

"Phil: Then what are we to say about your external object?

Is it a material substance, or is it not?

Hyl: It is a material substance with the sensible qualities inhering in it."

"Those qualities as perceived by us are pleasures or pains, but as existing in the external objects they are not. So we cannot conclude without qualification that there is no heat in the fire or sweetness in the sugar, but only that heat or sweetness as perceived by us are not in the fire or the sugar. What do you say to this?"

13/11/2024

Wednesday

Materialism and immaterialism.

Look into **who a skeptic is** according to Berkeley.

“Berkeley charges that materialism promotes skepticism and atheism: skepticism because materialism implies that our senses mislead us as to the natures of these are the material thing, which moreover need not exist at all, and atheism because a material world could be expected to run without the assistance of God.”
(Downing, SEP)

Sensible Things: *“Things that are perceived by the senses.”*

Immediate or mediate perception.

“Sensible things are nothing but so many sensible qualities, or combinations of sensible qualities.”

Heat → in the fire or in my mind?

“Is heat in the mind or in the matter?”

“It is indeed an opinion strangely prevailing amongst men, that houses, mountains, rivers, and in a word all sensible objects have an existence natural or real, distinct from their being perceived by the understanding. But with how great an assurance and acquiescence soever this principle may be entertained in the world, yet whoever shall find in his heart to call it in question, may, if I mistake not, perceive it to involve a manifest contradiction. For what are the fore-mentioned object but the things we perceive by sense, and what do we perceive besides our own ideas or sensations; and is it not plainly repugnant that any one of these or any combination of them should exist unperceived?”

Primary and Secondary Qualities of Things (p12)

>He is interested in the human experience regarding the thing rather than what the thing itself is.
What are these things to me (my experience rather than measurements or numerical attributes).

Do things exist independently from mind (i.e. being perceived)?

“Can one conceive of an unconceived tree?”

Omnipresent, Eternal Mind: God

Thanks to God perceiving everything, all exist, so that they don't disappear the moment they are not perceived.

Film (Samuel Beckett & Alan Schneider, 1965)

27/11/2024

Wednesday

Hannah Arendt: German/American, started the New School with a few of her colleagues.

There is a movie about her, idk watch it something after you watch Downfall for the third time. Poor old Adolf.

There were at least two angles to legal judgement that she underscored, and the another moral philosophy more generally:

1. Intention:

Did the courts have to prove that Eichmann intended to commit genocide in order to be convicted of the crime?

2. Crime against humanity – international court:

“Just as the failure to think was a failure to take into account the necessity and value that makes thinking possible, so the destruction and displacement of whole populations was an attack not only on those specific groups, but on humanity itself. As a result, Arendt objected to a specific nation-state conducting a trial of Eichmann exclusively in the name of its own population.”

3. Thoughtlessness

“[Arendt] faults [Eichmann]...for failing to realise that thinking implicates the subject in a sociality or plurality that cannot be divided or destroyed through genocidal aims.”

“Except for an extraordinary diligence in looking out for his personal advancement, he had no motives at all. And this diligence in itself was in no way criminal; he certainly would never have murdered his superior in order to inherit his post. He merely, to put the matter colloquially, never realized what he was doing. It was precisely this lack of imagination which enabled him to sit for months on end facing a German Jew who was conducting the police interrogation, pouring out his heart to the man and explaining again and again how it was that he reached only the rank of lieutenant colonel in the S.S. and that it had not been his fault that he was not promoted. In principle he knew quite well what it was all about, and in his final statement to the court he spoke of the “revaluation of values prescribed by the [Nazi] government.” He was not stupid. It was sheer thoughtlessness – something by no means identical with stupidity – that predisposed him to become one of the greatest criminals of that period. And if this is “banal” and even funny, if with the best will in the world one cannot extract any diabolical or demonic profundity from Eichmann, that is still far from calling it commonplace. It surely cannot be so common that a man facing death, and, moreover, standing beneath the gallows, should be able to think of nothing but what he has heard at funerals all his life, and that these “lofty words” should completely becloud the reality – of his own death. That such remoteness from reality and such thoughtlessness can wreak more havoc than all the evil instincts taken together which, perhaps, are inherent in man – that was, in fact, the lesson one could learn in Jerusalem.”

Being human is being part of a sociality. I am not, we are.

**04/12/2024
Wednesday**

NIETZSCHE:

The leaves.

Humans downplay the differences and organize the similarities in order to form concepts. This is fundamentally flawed as the point which you draw the line is unclear.

The basis for human knowledge depend on it being beneficial for humans.

Drive for truth:

It is contingent (could change).

Perspectivism, every living being is in the centre of universe, as they need to be in order to survive, interpretation from a particular perspective.

Humans systemize things into categories.
Concepts are a matter of invention (not a matter of discovery).

“In particular, let us further consider the formation of concepts. Every word instantly becomes a concept precisely insofar as it is not supposed to serve as a reminder of the unique and entirely individual original experience to which it owes its origin; but rather, a word becomes a concept insofar as it simultaneously has to fit countless more or less similar cases--which means, purely and simply, cases which are never equal and thus altogether unequal. Every concept arises from the equation of unequal things.”

~~Humans inherit their ways of knowing and understanding and do not invent new ones.~~

“We still do not yet know where the drive for truth comes from. For so far we have heard only of the duty which society imposes in order to exist: to be truthful means to employ the usual metaphors. Thus, to express it morally, this is the duty to lie according to a fixed convention, to lie with the herd and in a manner binding upon everyone. Now man of course forgets that this is the way things stand for him. Thus he lies in the manner indicated, unconsciously and in accordance with habits which are centuries' old; and precisely by means of this unconsciousness and forgetfulness he arrives at his sense of truth. From the sense that one is obliged to designate one thing as "red," another as "cold," and a third as "mute," there arises a moral impulse in regard to truth. The venerability, reliability, and utility of truth is something which a person demonstrates for himself from the contrast with the liar, whom no one trusts and everyone excludes.”

*“As a genius of construction man raises himself far above the bee in the following way: whereas the bee builds with wax that he gathers from nature, man builds with the far more delicate conceptual material which he first has to manufacture from himself. In this he is greatly to be admired, but not on account of his drive for truth or for pure knowledge of things. When someone hides something behind a bush and looks for it again in the same place and finds it there as well, there is not much to praise in such seeking and finding. Yet this is how matters stand regarding seeking and finding "truth" within the realm of reason. If I make up the definition of a mammal, and then, after inspecting a camel, declare 'look, a mammal' I have indeed brought a truth to light in this way, but it is a truth of limited value. That is to say, it is a thoroughly **anthropomorphic** truth which contains not a single point which would be **"true in itself"** or really and universally valid apart from man.”*

Categorization made by humans are just random-ass things. There is no necessity to them as they exist to serve humans.
Humans live a lie.

How the true world finally became a fable. The History of an Error (<Insert Here)

We have killed what we looked up to, we have killed the reason which persuaded us to do things.
We have killed our will, which was our God.

Hoist your sail and find the reason which will allow you to continue your existence, as you have killed the previous one by thinking. Congrats.

11/12/2024
Wednesday

Albert Camus:

The Stranger (1942)
The Myth of Sisyphus (1942)
The Rebel (1951)
I make big rock go up, therefore I be happy.
I happy because I rebel

18/12/2024
Wednesday

Existentialism (*Beauvoir and Fanon*):
Existence precedes essence.

There is NO pre-existing purpose and meaning, one creates it whilst they live.

BAD FAITH

A waiter who only thinks of themselves as a waiter will be in bad faith. They first and foremost are a subject^(person).

*** The myth of the eternal feminine (“What is a woman?”)**

*** The body as a “situation”**

*** The subject and the Other**

*** Immanence / Transcendence**

Facticity

Being in-itself

Being for-itself

*** “One is not born but rather becomes a woman”**

*** “Biology is not destiny”**

*** “The body is not a thing, it is a situation: it is our grasp on the world and our sketch of our project.”**

25/12/2024
Wednesday

MARX (*The Communist*):

Das Kapital (Fetishism Part)

Estranged Labour

Der Junge Karl Marx ← Movie regarding Marx’ life, quiet fictional albeit good (we’ll see)

What is “mystical” about commodities?

***Use value**

***Exchange value**

Relations of production

What is commodity fetishism?

Attributing mystical qualities to inanimate objects, as in pagan religions of the past.

Difference between the two classes: Property owners and propertyless workers → Private property—ownership over the means of production.

The Paradox of Labour

The Alienation of Labor

1. Estrangement of the thing: *The product of labor as an alien object*
2. Self-estrangement: *The act of production as an alien activity*
3. Estrangement from species-being: *The act distinguishing oneself from their own labor, which healthy animals don't do.*
4. Estrangement from other human beings: Instruments of a machine instead of being human beings.

Explain in your own words these two concepts (do this before the finals for the topics):

The fetishism of commodities

The alienation of labor

Gloria Anzaldua:

Chicana Writer

"We did not cross the border, the border crossed us."

"Nothing happens in the 'real' world, unless it first happens in the images in our heads."

The Coyolxauhqui Imperative