

The known is finite, the unknown infinite; intellectually we stand on an islet in the midst of an illimitable ocean of inexplicability. Our business in every generation is to reclaim a little more land. —T. H. Huxley

About Education

- “Our highest endeavor must be to develop free human beings who are able of themselves to impart purpose and direction to their lives. The need for imagination, a sense of truth, and a feeling of responsibility. These three forces are the very nerve of education.”

(Rudolf Steiner)

- “Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited to all we know and understand, while imagination embraces the entire world, and all there ever will be to know and understand.”

(Albert Einstein)

What is Philosophy?

- Philosophy is all of rational inquiry except for science.
- Philosophy is derived from the Greek word meaning 'love of wisdom'.
- Philosophy, as distinct from theology, began in Greece in the sixth century B.C.
- Philosophy is something intermediate between theology and science.
- Philosophy is an activity: it is a way of thinking about certain sorts of questions. Its most distinctive feature is its use of logical argument.
- Philosophers also analyze and clarify concepts.

Science vs. Philosophy

- Science is analytical description, philosophy is synthetic interpretation.
- Science wishes to resolve the into parts, the organism into organs, the obscure into the known.
- It does not inquire into the values and ideal possibilities of things, nor into their total and final significance; it is content to show their present actuality and operation, it narrows its gaze resolutely to the nature and process of things as they are.
- The scientist is as impartial as Nature .
- But the philosopher is not content to describe the fact; he wishes to ascertain its relation to experience in general, and thereby to get at its meaning and its worth; he combines things in interpretive synthesis; he tries to put together.

- Science tells us how to heal and how to kill; it reduces the death rate in retail and then kills us wholesale in war; but only wisdom, desire coordinated in the light of all experience can tell us when to heal and when to kill.
- To observe processes and to construct means is science; to criticize and coordinate ends is philosophy.
- Science gives us knowledge, but only philosophy can give us wisdom.
- Philosophy means and includes five fields of study and discourse: **logic, esthetics, ethics, politics, and metaphysics.**
- **Logic** is the study of ideal method in thought and research: **observation** and **introspection**, **deduction** and **induction**, **hypothesis** and **experiment**, **analysis** and **synthesis** such are the forms of human activity which logic tries to understand and guide.
- **Esthetics** is the study of ideal form, or beauty; it is the philosophy of art.

Observation

- **Observation** is of undeniable importance in the empirical sciences. As the source of information from the world itself, observation has the role of both motivating and testing theories. Playing this role requires more than just opening our eyes and letting nature act upon us.
- It requires a careful attention to the information conveyed from the world so that an observation is meaningful. Scientific observation, in other words, is more than a physical act of sensation; it must be an epistemic act as well, with sufficient meaning and credibility to contribute to knowledge. A report of an observation, therefore, must be more than a 'Yes, I see'. It must describe just what is seen, 'I see that '.

Introspection

- Introspection, as the term is used in contemporary philosophy of mind, is a means of learning about one's own currently ongoing, or perhaps very recently past, mental states or processes.
- You can, of course, learn about your own mind in the same way you learn about others' minds—by reading psychology texts, by observing facial expressions (in a mirror), by examining readouts of brain activity, by noting patterns of past behavior.
- Introspection is a key concept in epistemology, since introspective knowledge is often thought to be particularly secure, maybe even immune to skeptical doubt. Introspective knowledge is also often held to be more immediate or direct than sensory knowledge.

- Introspection is also central to philosophy of mind, both as a process worth study in its own right and as a court of appeal for other claims about the mind.
- Philosophers of mind offer a variety of theories of the nature of introspection; and philosophical claims about consciousness, emotion, free will, personal identity, thought, belief, imagery, perception, and other mental phenomena are often thought to have introspective consequences or to be susceptible to introspective verification.
- For similar reasons, empirical psychologists too have discussed the accuracy of introspective judgments and the role of introspection in the science of the mind.

Logic

- The word logic stems from the Greek word *logike* and or *logos* which translates to reason.
- **Logic** is defined as a system that aims to draw reasonable conclusions based on given information.
- The goal of logic is to use data to make inferences.
- the first known use of the word was in the 12th century to define a scientific set of principles.
- In the 14th century, the word's definition grew to encompass the idea of true and false thinking in terms of reasoning.
- Today, logic is connected to reasoning in forms of nuance found in argumentation, math, symbolism, and much more.

Valid Argument vs. Invalid Argument

- Since logic is dependent upon reason, emotions are removed from this practice, which means the concept of logic relies solely on given data and valid correlations based on the governing principles presented.
- **Valid argument:** When a person makes an argument, and all the claims they make are true, then it's deduced that the conclusion must be true, too. A valid argument provides clear and true premises that support the overall conclusion, which, in turn, makes it valid.
- **Invalid argument:** When a person makes an argument and presents claims that don't prove their conclusion, or the premises simply aren't true, this argument is considered invalid or false.

Types of Logic

- There are many types of logic located within the governing science. The four main logic types are:
- Informal logic
- Formal logic
- Symbolic logic
- Mathematical logic
- Most people use **informal logic** everyday, as it's how we reason and form argumentation in the moment.
- Informal logic consists of two types of reasoning to make arguments:
- **Deductive reasoning:** Uses information from various sources and applies that information to the argument at hand to support a larger, generalized conclusion
- **Inductive reasoning:** Uses the specific information given to form a generalized conclusion

Formal Logic

- **Formal logic** is logic that deals with the form or logical structure of statements and propositions and the logical implications and relations that exist or come about because of those logical forms. In particular, formal logic is concerned with the forms that yield or guarantee valid inferences from a premise or premises to a conclusion.
- A common example of formal logic is the use of a syllogism to explain those connections. A **syllogism** is form of reasoning which draws conclusions based on two given premises. In each syllogism, there are two premises and one conclusion that is drawn based on the given information. The most famous example is about Socrates.
- Premise A: Socrates is a man.
- Premise B: All men are mortal.
- Conclusion C: Therefore, Socrates is mortal.

Deduction & Induction

- In logic, we often refer to the two broad methods of reasoning as the *deductive* and *inductive* approaches.
- **Deductive reasoning** works from the more general to the more specific. Sometimes this is informally called a “top-down” approach. We might begin with thinking up a *theory* about our topic of interest. We then narrow that down into more specific *hypotheses* that we can test. We narrow down even further when we collect *observations* to address the hypotheses. This ultimately leads us to be able to test the hypotheses with specific data – a *confirmation* (or not) of our original theories.
- Deduction Process: Theory- Hypothesis-
Observation- Confirmation

Inductive Logic

- **Inductive reasoning** works the other way, moving from specific observations to broader generalizations and theories. Informally, we sometimes call this a “bottom up” approach.
- In inductive reasoning, we begin with specific observations and measures, begin to detect patterns and regularities, formulate some tentative hypotheses that we can explore, and finally end up developing some general conclusions or theories.
- Induction Process; Observation- Pattern- Tentative Hypothesis- Theory



- These two methods of reasoning have a very different “feel” to them when you’re conducting research. Inductive reasoning, by its very nature, is more open-ended and exploratory, especially at the beginning. Deductive reasoning is more narrow in nature and is concerned with testing or confirming hypotheses.

- **Ethics** is the study of ideal conduct; the highest knowledge, said Socrates, is the knowledge of good and evil, the knowledge of the wisdom of life.
- **Politics** is the study of ideal social organization (it is not, as one might suppose, the art and science of capturing and keeping office).
- **Metaphysics** an attempt to coordinate the real in the light of the ideal) is the study of the 'ultimate reality' of all things: of the real and final nature of "matter" (ontology), of "mind" (philosophical psychology), and of the interrelation of "mind" and "matter" in the processes of perception and knowledge (epistemology).

Basic Philosophical Questions

- Why are we here?
- Is there any proof that God exists?
- Is there any purpose to our lives?
- What makes anything right or wrong?
- Could we ever be justified in breaking the law?
- Could our lives be just a dream? Is mind different from body, or are we simply physical beings?
- How does science progress?
- What is art?

Metaphysics

- From Greek *meta* after, *physica* natural things .
- The word 'metaphysics' is derived from a collective title of the fourteen books by Aristotle that we currently think of as making up Aristotle's *Metaphysics*.
- It is a branch of inquiry that deals with fundamental questions about being and about what kinds of things there are in the world.
- Metaphysical issues are concerned with the nature of reality.
- Traditional metaphysical issues include the existence of God and the nature of human free will (assuming we have any).
- Here are a few metaphysical questions of interest to contemporary philosophers:

- What is a thing? How are space and time related?
- Does the past exist? How about the future?
- How many dimensions does the world have?
- Are there any entities beyond physical objects (like numbers, properties, and relations)? If so, how are they related to physical objects?
- The subject-matter of metaphysics is “being as such”.
- The subject-matter of metaphysics is the first causes of things.
- The subject-matter of metaphysics is that which does not change.

- Christian Wolff distinguished between ‘general metaphysics’ (or ontology), the study of being as such, and the various branches of ‘special metaphysics’, which study the being of objects of various special sorts, such as souls and material bodies.
- “Being is; not-being is not” [Parmenides];
- “Essence precedes existence” [Avicenna, paraphrased];
- “Existence in reality is greater than existence in the understanding alone” [St Anselm, paraphrased];

Epistemology

- Epistemology is concerned with the nature of knowledge and justified belief.
- What is knowledge? Can we have any knowledge at all?
- Can we have knowledge about the laws of nature, the laws or morality, or the existence of other minds?
- The view that we can't have knowledge is called skepticism.
- An extreme form of skepticism denies that we can have any knowledge whatsoever. But we might grant that we can have knowledge about some things and remain skeptics concerning other issues.
- Many people, for instance, are not skeptics about scientific knowledge, but are skeptics when it comes to knowledge of morality.

Ethics or Moral Philosophy

- From Greek *ethikos*, Latin *moralis* concerning custom.
- The branch of philosophy treating of good and evil.
- It is a practical study, having to do with the actions of human beings as members of social groups.
- What is goodness and how is one to lead an ethically good life.
- While epistemology is concerned with what we ought to believe and how we ought to reason, **Ethics** is concerned with what we ought to do, how we ought to live, and how we ought to organize our communities.

- Thinking of morality in terms of whose commands are authoritative leaves no room for rational inquiry into how we ought to live, how we ought to treat others, or how we ought to structure our communities
- Sadly, it comes as a surprise to many new philosophy students that you can reason about such things. Religiously inspired views about morality often take right and wrong to be simply a matter of what is commanded by a divine being.
- Moral Relativism, perhaps the most popular opinion among people who have rejected faith, simply substitutes the commands of society for the commands of God.
- Commands are simply to be obeyed, they are not to be inquired into, assessed for reasonableness, or tested against the evidence.

Ontology

- **Ontology**, the philosophical study of being in general, or of what applies neutrally to everything that is real. It was called “first philosophy” by Aristotle in Book IV of his *Metaphysics*. The Latin term *ontologia* (“science of being”) was felicitously invented by the German philosopher Jacob Lorhard (Lorhardus) and first appeared in his work *Ogdoas Scholastica* (1st ed.) in 1606. It entered general circulation after being popularized by the German rationalist philosopher Christian Wolff in his Latin writings, especially *Philosophia Prima sive Ontologia* (1730; “First Philosophy or Ontology”).

- Many classical philosophical problems are problems in ontology: the question whether or not there is a god, or the problem of the existence of universals, etc.. These are all problems in ontology in the sense that they deal with whether or not a certain thing, or more broadly entity, exists.
- But ontology is usually also taken to encompass problems about the most general features and relations of the entities which do exist.
- One of the longest standing ontological questions in philosophy concerns the existence, or otherwise, of God or at least some sense of a higher being. This has provided a springboard for philosophers to question, among other things, the purpose of existence, the nature of a priori reasoning, the meaning of sensory experience and what constitutes valid argument. In the more down to earth world of social research thinking about ontology refers to beliefs about the fundamental nature of reality, in particular social reality.

Axiology

- **Axiology**, (from Greek *axios*, “worthy”; *logos*, “science”), also called **THEORY OF VALUE**, the philosophical study of goodness, or value, in the widest sense of these terms. Axiology is the branch of practical philosophy which studies the nature of value and its metaphysical aspects.
- The **main difference** between axiology and ethics is that **axiology is the study of values whereas ethics is the study of moral principles**.
- Ethics is a branch of philosophy that deals with moral concepts like right and wrong, virtue and vice as well as good and evil. Axiology, in contrast, is a field that deals with concepts of values, aesthetics and ethics. Therefore, it is not inaccurate to say that ethics is a subset of axiology.

Conclusion

Main branches of Philosophy are:

- **Axiology:** Study of the nature of value and valuation
- **Metaphysics:** Study of the fundamental nature of reality
- **Epistemology:** Study of the nature, origin, and limits of human knowledge
- **Ethics Philosophy:** Study of what is right and wrong in human behavior.
- **Aesthetics:** Study of beauty and taste
- **Logic Philosophy:** Study of the nature and types of logic
- **Political Philosophy:** Study of government, addressing questions about the nature, scope, and legitimacy of public agents and institutions

What is Phenomenology?

- The discipline of phenomenology may be defined initially as the study of structures of experience, or consciousness. Literally, phenomenology is the study of “phenomena”: appearances of things, or things as they appear in our experience, or the ways we experience things, thus the meanings things have in our experience. Phenomenology studies conscious experience as experienced from the subjective or first person point of view
- The historical movement of phenomenology is the philosophical tradition launched in the first half of the 20th century by **Edmund Husserl**, **Martin Heidegger**, Maurice Merleau-Ponty, **Jean-Paul Sartre**, *et al.* In that movement, the discipline of phenomenology was prized as the proper foundation of all philosophy—as opposed, say, to ethics or metaphysics or epistemology.

- In recent philosophy of mind, the term “phenomenology” is often restricted to the characterization of sensory qualities of seeing, hearing, etc.: what it is like to have sensations of various kinds. However, our experience is normally much richer in content than mere sensation. Accordingly, in the phenomenological tradition, phenomenology is given a much wider range, addressing the meaning things have in our experience, notably, the significance of objects, events, tools, the flow of time, the self, and others, as these things arise and are experienced in our “life-world”.
- phenomenology studies the structure of various types of experience ranging from perception, thought, memory, imagination, emotion, desire, and volition to bodily awareness, embodied action, and social activity, including linguistic activity.

Existentialism

- As an intellectual movement that exploded on the scene in mid-twentieth-century France, “existentialism” is often viewed as a historically situated event that emerged against the backdrop of the Second World War, the Nazi death camps, and the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, all of which created the circumstances for what has been called “the existentialist moment” (Baert 2015), where an entire generation was forced to confront the human condition and the anxiety-provoking givens of death, freedom, and meaninglessness.
- Its emphasis on freedom and the struggle for self-creation informed the radical and emancipatory politics of Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X as well as the writings of Black intellectuals such as Ralph Ellison, Richard Wright, and W.E.B. Du Bois

- Although the most popular voices of this movement were French, most notably Jean-Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir, as well as compatriots such as Albert Camus, Gabriel Marcel, and Maurice Merleau-Ponty, the conceptual groundwork of the movement was laid much earlier in the nineteenth century by pioneers like Søren Kierkegaard and Friedrich Nietzsche and twentieth-century German philosophers like Edmund Husserl, Martin Heidegger, and Karl Jaspers as well as prominent Spanish intellectuals José Ortega y Gasset and Miguel de Unamuno. Analyses of anxiety and the importance of self-realization
- *Nihilism*: The emergence of existentialism as an intellectual movement was influenced by the rise of nihilism in late nineteenth century Europe as the pre-modern religious worldview was replaced with one that was increasingly secular and scientific. This historical transition resulted in the loss of a transcendent moral framework and contributed to the rise of modernity's signature experiences: anxiety, alienation, boredom, and meaninglessness.

- ***Existence Precedes Essence***: Existentialists forward a novel conception of the self not as a substance or thing with some pre-given nature (or “essence”) but as a situated activity or way of being whereby we are always in the process of making or creating who we are as our life unfolds. This means our essence is not given in advance; we are contingently thrown into existence and are burdened with the task of creating ourselves through our choices and actions.
- ***Freedom***: Existentialists agree that what distinguishes our existence from that of other beings is that we are self-conscious and exist *for* ourselves, which means we are free and responsible for who we are and what we do. This does not mean we are wholly undetermined but, rather, that we are always *beyond* or *more than* ourselves because of our capacity to interpret and give meaning to whatever limits or determines us.

CLASSICAL EASTERN PHILOSOPHY

Hindu Philosophy

- The Self-God, Release from Rebirth, Yoga, Vedanta

Buddhist Philosophy

- Four Noble Truths, Improper Questions and the No-Self Doctrine
- Dependent Origination, Emptiness and Zen Buddhism

Confucian Philosophy

- Ritual conduct, Humaneness and the Superior Person
- Child Obedience and Good Government
- Mencius: Inherent Human Goodness

Taoist Philosophy

- The Dao, Return, Non-Action and Non-Mind, Minimal Governing
- Lieh-Tzu: Following Natural Desires

Shintoism: Ancient Japanese religion

Lao Tzu/Taoism

- The founder of Taoism outlined his globally popular philosophy in the *Tao Te Ching* between the 6th and 4th centuries B.C. — and some even debate whether or not he was a real or apocryphal individual. In his most influential work, he touts the concept of the Tao, an invisible structure which drives all things, and believes enlightenment comes from attaining oneness with the surrounding universe. Harmony with nature as opposed to working against its will forms the crux of this religious and philosophical approach, making it ideal for anyone hoping to reduce stresses in their lives

Siddhartha Gautama/Buddhism

- The prince Siddhartha Gautama probably lived around the 6th or 5th century B.C., but even today his spiritual guidance inspires millions of practitioners globally. Although details of his life will likely remain disputed for a while yet, the Four Noble Truths Buddha taught stay largely static. The philosophy and faith encourages the pursuit of these principles through as many lifetimes as it takes to finally achieve perfect bliss and knowledge in Nirvana.
- The Four Noble Truths comprise the essence of Buddha's teachings. They are the truth of suffering, the truth of the cause of suffering, the truth of the end of suffering, and the truth of the path that leads to the end of suffering. More simply put, suffering exists; it has a cause; it has an end; and it has a cause to bring about its end.

- In Buddhism, desire and ignorance lie at the root of suffering. By desire, Buddhists refer to craving pleasure, material goods, and immortality, all of which are wants that can never be satisfied. As a result, desiring them can only bring suffering. Ignorance, in comparison, relates to not seeing the world as it actually is. Without the capacity for mental concentration and insight, Buddhism explains, one's mind is left undeveloped, unable to grasp the true nature of things. Vices, such as greed, envy, hatred and anger, derive from this ignorance.
- The Third Noble Truth, the truth of the end of suffering, has dual meaning, suggesting either the end of suffering in this life, on earth, or in the spiritual life, through achieving Nirvana. When one has achieved Nirvana, which is a transcendent state free from suffering and our worldly cycle of birth and rebirth, spiritual enlightenment has been reached.

- The Fourth Noble truth charts the method for attaining the end of suffering, known to Buddhists as the Noble Eightfold Path. The steps of the Noble Eightfold Path are Right Understanding, Right Thought, Right Speech, Right Action, Right Livelihood, Right Effort, Right Mindfulness and Right Concentration. Moreover, there are three themes into which the Path is divided: good moral conduct (Understanding, Thought, Speech); meditation and mental development (Action, Livelihood, Effort), and wisdom or insight (Mindfulness and Concentration).

Confucius

- In his *Analects* — and some theories, the Five Classics (*Spring and Autumn Annals*, *Classic of Poetry*, *Classic of Changes*, *Classic of Rites*, and *Classic of History*) — this 6th and 5th century B.C. thinker promoted ancestor worship, strong filial bonds, and considerate living. Many of the parables and maxims shared in Confucius' writings espouse humanistic ideologies, placing the well-being of all over the needs of the few. *Li*, an ethical framework encouraging the populace to behave appropriately, serves as the best introduction to his philosophies for beginners hoping to learn more.

Shintoism

- Shinto means the way of the gods. Shintoism is an Ancient religion of **Japan**. It started at least as long ago as 1000 B.C.E. but is still practiced today by at least five million people. The followers of Shintoism believe that spiritual powers exist in the natural world. They believe that spirits called "kami" live in natural places such as in animals, plants, stones, mountains, rivers, people and even the dead.

- Do not dwell in the past, do not dream of the future, concentrate the mind on the present moment.

Buddha

- He who has a why to live can bear almost any how.

Friedrich Nietzsche

- Life is a series of natural and spontaneous changes. Don't resist them - that only creates sorrow. Let reality be reality. Let things flow naturally forward in whatever way they like.

Lao Tzu

- It is better to conquer yourself than to win a thousand battles. Then the victory is yours. It cannot be taken from you, not by angels or by demons, heaven or hell.

Buddha

All The Best