

Until this point in class, I have read the first two readings and saw the first video on Plato's Allegory of the Cave. Nevertheless, I still wonder about the reason why people cast shadows on the wall with their puppets. What is possible there to gain by not sharing the knowledge? Is the real truth actually bad and we are being protected from it? Or the puppeteers just cast the shadows to misinform and to maintain this barrier that divides us from them while they hold all of the knowledge and power. It would not be the first time in history that there is a division between two groups. Also, why is it part of our nature to not want unity from the beginning?

I also did the readings of the 1 unit "What is philosophy?". I found it very interesting how Russell described how a student of philosophy educates him or herself in this subject. I mean it's not about learning the science but the questions that make us ponder and come up with the answer are what bring us a deeper understanding. As said at the beginning of chapter 15 "... it must be only indirectly, through its effects upon the lives of those who study it. It is in these effects, therefore, if anywhere, that the value of philosophy must be primarily sought." He also gave another interesting point where he explained how the life of a common man is very simple with very few interests without the possibility of ever escaping it since we cannot take interest in everything else in the world; yet with philosophical contemplation is where we might find self-growth. However, as stated is as before all of the knowledge gained from this contemplation is obtained indirectly.

I also want it to be clear that nothing has really been extremely challenging in this course up until this point, but I do have to reread philosophical passages again and again so I truly understand what is being said.

Finally, to answer the question given, I would say not necessarily. There are two ways to quantify knowledge: you either know something or you don't so it's either passing or failing a class. However what would qualify as knowing the content at that point? Do you have to know every single topic that was given to you in its entirety so you can show that you have some type of mastery? What and where is the line drawn to what we let a

passing grade be? Of course, it would be easier for students to get their degrees and for teachers to grade projects or assignments. No one would have to stress about grades anymore; but, how would you stand out amongst your classmates? Should the hard work of good students be overlooked? Would it really matter if you get your degree and have no trouble having a professional career in that field? All in all, it is not necessary to use a grading system to obtain a degree, but this system helps give merit to the students that gave their best towards getting it.