$\usepackage{braket}$

HS301 - Philosophy

> "Few men think, yet we all have opinions"
> - George Berkeley

Introduction

> "Philosophy is not an activity by itself... ofcourse it is."
> - Ranjan Kumar Panda

What is philosophy? Philosophy is a *humanistic* discipline. Intended to investigate reality and understand how we fit into it.

Philosophy investigates:

- knowledge,
- the human mind,
- the nature of reality,
- values, and
- relationships.

Philosophy is a form of **self-reflective, critical, and rational** inquiry. It presents a picture of the world and/or a set of values, even pictures about the nature of philosophy and the need to study it. Thinking about basic ideas and explaining things around yourself forms your own picture of it.

> "An apple falling leads to shaking the tree."

Basic ideas are born out of observation and lead to experimentation.

Experimentation leads to more complex ideas, and eventually, the picture of the world finds its feet as a discipline, and often separates from philosophy, such as physics, chemistry, astronomy, and psychology.

Origins

Philosophy arose classically with religious foundations, as a search for *wisdom*, from pressing motivation or some deeply felt beliefs.

It originated in Greece and India

Classical Greek Philosophy

Classical Indian Philosophy

Arose as discussion between schools of Hinduism as well as Buddhism, as a battle for *intellectual supremacy*, an argument to prove *their* view of the world was correct.

Main Ideas

Philosophy presents three main questions:

- What really exists?

    - What is being? What is existence?
    - Does existence/life have a meaning?
    - Is death the end?

- Whether we can know anything

- Whether anything is really right or wrong

To answer these questions, several schools of philosophy developed:

- Humanist

    - Fuck me

- Realist

    - Fuck me 2

Ways of thinking

- Speculative
    - Philosophy began with speculation
    - Advances with intuitive insights beyond what is observed
    - Highlights power of thought and imagination in deducing underlying principles
- Imaginative / Creative
    - Spirit of discovery / invention
    - Leads to new questions and observations
    - Tagore - Scientific truths can only be reached through logic, while universal truths may not, they are *human*.
- Reflective / Critical / Meditative
    - Objective analysis of thoughts
    - Skillful application of concepts

- Synthesis of Ideas *(imaginative mix?)*
- Assesses:
  - Accuracy
  - Consistency
  - Relevance
- Argumentative
  - Arguments are a foundation of philosophy
  - Experiment with thoughts
  - Regulated by laws of logic
  - Deduce another set of thoughts from one set
- Liberal / Inclusive
  - Philosophy needs being open minded
  - Accepting new thoughts and ideas as a path to the future
  - Lack leads to *Philosophical Blindness*
  - Demands self-scrutiny to eliminate prejudices