

Notes for PHIL 102

Section #1, Pages 1-120.

Definitions:

Philosophy – the love of exercising one’s curiosity and intelligence (“I love wisdom”).

Knowledge – justified true belief.

Skepticism – the belief that you can know nothing and can’t even know that.

Cosmology – the study of the universe.

Cosmogony – the study of the origins of the universe.

Ethics – the study of right and wrong.

Metaphysics – the study of ultimate reality.

Substrate – the basic substance or building block of the universe.

Esoteric – literally, within the circle. Exoteric is outside the circle.

Form – timeless, changeless truth capable of being apprehended by the mind, and partaken of by the many particulars that resemble it.

Epistemology – the study of knowledge

Philosophers:

Natural Philosophers (Cosmologists)

The first three were from Miletus, a Greek city-state on the western coast of Turkey.

Thales – The first philosopher who abandoned mythological formulations and said that all things are composed of water (hudor).

Anaximander – Student of Thales who said that the universe is composed of the apeiron (the unlimited or undefined) out of which the four opposites spring and to which they return according to justice as assessed by time.

Anaximenes – Student of Anaximander who said that air is the substrate. Compression and dilation of air accounts for differences in observable phenomena.

Pythagoras established his religious/ philosophical/ mathematical colony at Croton in southern Italy. He was the first to think of philosophy as a way of life, and not just something you study. The universe is somehow composed of #. Souls reincarnate, five years of silence, esoteric and exoteric knowledge, secrecy, and don’t eat beans.

Heraclitus of Ephesus (north of Miletus in Turkey) – His substrate was Fire (pyre) out of which the three elements, earth, water, and fire (this is elemental fire as opposed to Fire the substrate) come and to which they return according to the intelligible law of the universe, which is called logos. Everything is in a constant state of change. Man is a small version of the universe.

Parmenides of Elea (in southern Italy) – Everything is one and all change and motion is illusion. **Zeno**, his follower, invented several famous arguments to demonstrate Parmenides’ point, including *Achilles and the Tortoise* and *The Stadium*.

Anaxagoras of Clazomanae (north of Miletus) – His substrate were ‘seeds’ which are infinitely small and divisible. He is known mainly for his comment about ‘Mind’ that Plato quoted but found as an unacceptable description of mind.

Empedocles of Acragas (in southern Sicily) – All things are composed of earth, air, fire and, water and motion and change are due to the forces of love and strife.

Democritus of Athens – He worked out the details of Leucippus’ atomic theory. Only atoms and void exist. Atoms are too small to see and have only size and shape. All differences, including secondary qualities (e.g., taste, color, and temperature) are due to combinations of atoms and their shapes (lego blocks).

Sophists were supposed to be wise and informed people (the literal meaning), but developed the reputation for selling the ability to argue a case. They had the reputation of the modern lawyer, - willing to take either side of a case as long as it pays well, and unconcerned about the truth. Instead of wise men, the sophists were usually wise guys. **Protagoras** – Greatest of the sophists, known for the statement “Man is the measure”. Virtue is related to the ability to speak well and persuade others.

The 3 Great Philosophers of the Golden Age of Athens

Socrates (470 – 399 BC) - Aristophanes had ridiculed Socrates as a sophist in the play *The Clouds*, but Socrates was not a sophist, for he did not charge his students and was very concerned with the truth. He did excel at the art of persuasion and discussion, however. The ‘Socratic method’ refers to his style of doing philosophy that involved debate and discourse as opposed to reading and criticism. He was put to death because of a conviction pressed by Meletus, Anytus, and Lycon for impiety and corruption of the youth. Socrates refocused philosophy from a search for the substratum to an examination of man, life, and virtue. His view of man as a dualistic combination of a material body and an immaterial soul, as expressed by his student Plato, would change philosophy forever.

Plato (434-347 BC) - A student of Socrates. His home, the Academy, became the site of the first university in the western world. He is the first philosopher from whom complete works survive. Many of Plato’s dialogues remain and demonstrate that philosophy had changed from a search for substrate to a discipline concerned with every aspect of human existence. His theory of forms (idos), as explained by the ‘allegory of the cave’ in his *Republic*, was the central truth around which his philosophy revolved. Knowledge is a recollection of forms (anamnesis). To be good is to recollect and imitate The Good, and to avoid the pleasures of the corrupting influence, our body. The soul is an immaterial prisoner in a material body whose goal is return to the world of the forms. Politically, Plato was an aristocratic elitist who longed for utopia (but a utopia you or I wouldn’t want to live in). Although Plato wrote on physics in *The Timaeus*, he clearly wasn’t much interested in the subject and could be called a Pythagorean in this regard.

Aristotle (384 – 322 BC) – A student of Plato’s and a teacher in the Academy. He was dissatisfied in Speusippus (Plato’s nephew) taking over the Academy after Plato’s death. He tutored Alexander the Great in Macedonia and returned to Athens to open a rival school, the Lyceum. The writings of Aristotle that remain are much more technical in nature than the dialogues of Plato. While Plato looked to the heavens for answers, Aristotle was of a much more scientific nature. Knowledge is of the 4 causes. The soul is the ‘first actualization of a body potentially having life.’ The good is appropriate activity and right functioning and is characterized by the golden mean (courage is the mean between foolhardiness and cowardice). He improved logic, divided the college curriculum, argued for democracy, and developed a physics that would last for 2000 years until Newton.

Notes for Test #2, pp. 121-232.

Additional definitions:

Ataraxia – complete peace of mind

Autarchia – self-rule

Apatheia – acceptance of and resignation to the fates

Mysticism – the belief that true knowledge is extra-rational

Pantheism – the belief that the world is one and is God

Hedonist – one who equates the good with pleasure

Heliocentric – the view that the sun is at the center, - not the earth

Philosophers & Schools:

Hellenistic Philosophy

This period of philosophy is characterized by an emphasis on ethics and the nature of virtue. It was a more cosmopolitan age (Greek, Roman, and Alexandrian) in which we find an emphasis on the individual as opposed to the state. Philosophy was seen as a spiritual, medicinal, way of life; no longer something that one merely studies. The goals were ataraxia, autarchia, and apatheia, or spiritual peace.

Pyrrho the Skeptic – The ultimate skeptic, who argued that abstention from judgement and silence about philosophical issues, leads to ataraxia.

Aristippus the Cyrenaic – Original hedonist, who argued that active bodily pleasure is the only good (even if it comes from the most unseemly conduct).

Stilpo the Megarian – Chiefly concerned with disputation and argument. He helped to develop logic.

Diogenes the Cynic – “The Strong Dog” who advocated complete freedom of speech and action. He argued that pleasure wealth and power are the three great delusions that we must avoid as we throw convention out. He had no use for government and recommended a life of self-sufficiency. Virtue is the practical expression of self-realization.

Zeno the Stoic – Founder of the Stoic school in Athens at the Stoa Poikile (Painted Porch). Stoicism is a combination of Heraclitean physics, Megarian logic, and Socratic ethics. Everything occurs according to fate and destiny and then reoccurs in a regular cycle forever. There is no human freedom. Virtue is total acceptance of our fate and denial of our passions (apatheia). Self-control is the greatest virtue.

Marcus Aurelius (Roman Stoic) – Roman emperor whose description of a material mortal mind is not able to compete with the immortal description of the soul offered by the Christians. He is known for his famous work on ethics, *Meditations*.

Epicurus – Founder of the school in Athens known as the garden. The Epicureans were atomists. A soul is composed of small round atoms that disperse after death. He claimed that all people seek pleasure and avoid pain and that pleasure is the only good and pain is the only bad. He divided pleasure into four types, the best of which is ataraxia for it alone is not followed by pain.

Lucretius - Roman Epicurean who committed suicide after writing *De Rerum Natura*, a long poem that argued for Epicurean materialism and against immortality.

Philo Judeaus of Alexandria - Jewish mystic, who combined Greek and Roman philosophy with Judaism.

Plotinus – Neo-Platonist mystic philosopher, who argued for pantheism. His Absolute (God) takes the place of Plato’s forms as the ultimate reality from which all things emanate. Knowledge comes from an ecstatic union with the one, rather than from reason or sense experience.

Middle Ages:

After Constantine’s conversion to Christianity in 313AD, the questions of philosophy took on a religious nature. The "project" of philosophy became an understanding of the mysteries associated with the Christian religion.

Augustine of Hippo (354-430AD) – A Christian Platonist philosopher who helped to establish many of the early positions of the Church against the “heretical” positions. He is known for his arguments that attempt to show that it is consistent to say we have free will and yet God can know ahead of time what we will do. He used the perfect predictor argument and the argument that God is not in time.

Anselm of Canterbury (1033-1109AD) – Known for his famous ontological argument for God’s existence. It depends on the definition of God as “that than which none greater can be conceived”. Since the greatest conceivable God would include the attribute of existence, God exists by definition. Besides it is a contradiction to argue that God does not exist, for who is it that doesn’t exist? Guanilo the monk showed the shortcomings in the argument.

Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274AD) – A Dominican monk who is generally credited with for his answers to the questions of the nature of universals, and the solution to the faith v. reason controversy. He was the also credited with incorporating Aristotelian philosophy and Christianity. Aristotle’s views were rediscovered during this period and formed the foundation of Christian science for several hundred years (This is usually called scholasticism). He is known for a series of proofs of God’s existence, called “The Five Ways”. The arguments include the first mover, efficient cause, necessity and possibility, gradation, and design.

Renaissance:

A period (roughly 1350-1550) characterized by a reaction to the Middle Ages and especially scholasticism. ‘Renaissance’ indicates a reawakening of the classical period from the dark period. The discovery of ancient manuscripts and better means of dissemination (invention of printing) helped to rekindle an interest in the classics of the Greeks and Romans. During this period there occurs a division between philosophy (including natural philosophy or science) and religion that starts a revolution for learning. ‘**Baroque**’ refers to the period between 1550-1750 that was characterized by great vanity and affections (*carpe diem*) and yet was a period of great contradictions and conflicts.

Copernicus (1473-1543) – *On the Revolutions of the Celestial Spheres* explained his heliocentric view that caused one of the greatest upheavals in science ever.

Galileo (1564-1642) and **Kepler** (1571-1630) – Using telescopes they enforced the position of Copernicus and further explained the law of inertia, the regularities in nature, and forces that occur among objects.

Newton (1642-1727) – He provided the fullest description of the solar system and the planetary orbits. He devised the Universal Law of Gravitation. He explained the movement of planets and showed that all things in the universe move in regular, predictable ways. Man now had to realize that we are travelling on a small planet in a small solar system in the middle of nowhere and that we don't sit at the center of the universe. While this didn't affect Newton's religious beliefs, it served to encourage many others to challenge their religious beliefs.

Hobbes (1588-1679) – English philosopher who was known for his social and political views that coincide with his material views of nature. Freedom, equality, and greed led man to a state of nature (man before civilization) that was “solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short”. We form societies in order to escape a life that is intolerable and give up our natural freedom in exchange for security (a social contract).

PHIL 102, Notes for Test # 3, Pages 233 – 384

Additional definitions:

Rationalism – In epistemology, the belief that knowledge comes from reason (in Latin *ratio = reason*)

Empiricism – In epistemology, the belief that knowledge comes from empirical data (sense experience)

Idealism – A metaphysical view that equates reality to ideas in the mind

Materialism – A metaphysical view that only body exists

Dualism – A metaphysical view that both mind and body exist

Ontology – The study of being

Utilitarianism – The ethical belief that good is determined by outcomes,- especially pleasure.

Philosophers:

Descartes (1596-1650) The father of Modern Philosophy, a French rationalist, known for the *method of doubt* and the *cogito*. Knowledge comes from *clear and distinct ideas* of the mind. There is a real distinction between mind and body and both exist. Recall the wax as evidence.

Spinoza (1632-1677) Dutch lens grinder of Portuguese Jewish descent who used Descartes' method to arrive at an idealistic metaphysics. God exists necessarily and has infinite attributes (although we only know the attributes of thought and extension). Since God is infinite, only God exists. God is nature and nature is God (Spinoza is a pantheist). His ethics are similar to the Stoic acceptance of fate.

Locke (1632-1704) English philosopher best known for his epistemological and political views. At birth minds are blank slates (*tabula rasa*) and all knowledge comes from ideas, which are generated from sensation or reflection. Objects have primary qualities that cannot be separated from the objects (e.g. solidity and extension) and secondary qualities that are in the observer and separate from the object (e.g. color and odor). We must assume the substance of objects of sense from their qualities. In the state of nature all men are free and equal. We enter a social contract to secure our life liberty and property and to remedy inconveniences caused by too many people. When government violates the contract, the people have the right to dissolve the government.

Hume (1711-1776) Scottish follower of Locke who developed empirical thought to one logical extreme that is sometimes known as radical empiricism. All knowledge originates from sensations or impressions. Ideas are mental constructions that represent those impressions. Memory preserves, arranges, and rearranges our ideas. What we call causation is really correlation. Hume's fork demonstrates the reasonableness of a skeptical position concerning most, if not all, conclusions reached.

Berkeley (1685-1753) Irish follower of Locke who developed empirical thought along a different line that is sometimes referred to as subjective idealism. Knowledge originates from perceptions, but material substances do not cause perceptions. In fact, what we call material substance does not exist outside of the mind. *Esse est percipi*. An infinite being causes and coordinates all perceptual experiences. The primary qualities that Locke described are shown in reality to be secondary qualities. Berkeley's philosophy is the source for the questions about trees falling in the woods. (Samuel Johnson's refutation was to kick a rock.)

Kant (1724-1804) Prussian philosopher who was one of the most important thinkers of all times. His epistemology can be seen as a synthesis of rationalism and empiricism. We are not the blank slates that Locke described. Our minds receive, organize, and make judgements about sense data according to the categories of our understanding (12 in number including space, time, and causality). These categories are the rose colored glasses of our minds. Synthetic *a priori* truths are both certain and informative, and form

the foundation for metaphysics. Kant's ethics are based on the categorical imperative (CI). Good will is the only good. Good will means acting from duty. Duty means observing the CI. CI: *I ought never to act except in such a way that I can also will that my maxim should become a universal law.*

Bentham (1748-1832) British materialist and founder of the utilitarian school. All humans pursue pleasure. Good is described as the greatest good for the greatest number. Hedonistic calculus aids in ethical decisions. Stuffed.

Hegel (1770-1831) German neo-rational idealist (he called himself an absolute idealist). Everything is one (monism) and is the Absolute Spirit. Nothing is unrelated. The mind generates and constitutes reality. Reality = God and God = Reality. The truth is the whole. The human mind is merely a manifestation of the absolute Spirit. God and the system are one. The all-encompassing system is the development of God through time (i.e. history), represented by thesis, antithesis, and synthesis.

Kierkegaard (1813-1855) Danish father of existentialism (more on existentialism in the last section). He rebelled against Hegel's denial of Aristotelian logic and Hegel's denial of human freedom. Philosophy is about freedom and the individual. Men are of 3 types: the hedonist, the ethical, and the spiritual. The third is most preferable (hence Christ is preferable to Socrates). A decision made during angst can change the future. Kierkegaard's goal was not a metaphysical nor epistemological one, but an ontological goal.

Historical Periods:

Modern Philosophy 17th and 18th Century philosophy encompassing the following three movements:

1. Continental Rationalism – A reference to the followers of Descartes, especially Spinoza.
2. British Empiricism – A reference to the followers of Locke, especially Berkeley and Hume.
3. German Idealism – A reference to the followers of Kant, especially Hegel and Schopenhauer.

Enlightenment – The age of reason in which 'the light went on' in contrast to the supposed darkness, irrationality and superstition of the Middle ages. It is characterized as a period of equality, tolerance, diversity, individuality and humanity.

Romanticism – The late 18th Century movement that expressed itself as a reaction to the neo classicism of the enlightenment. It is characterized by an emphasis on the subjective, feelings, creativity, originality, and the imagination.

Notes for the 4th and final section of PHIL 102 Pages 385 –514.

Additional Definitions:

Absurdism – The belief that life has no meaning

Existentialism – Existence precedes essence

Proletariat – Marx's name for the workers

Bourgeoisie – Marx's name for the owners of the means of production

Communism – Economic system of common ownership that divides the pie according to the idea *from each according to his ability, and to each according to his need*

Philosophers:

Marx (1813-1883) German economist and social philosopher who argued for communism. He called man *Homo Faber* and argued for the need for a worker revolution. The bourgeoisie has alienated labor (the proletariat) from their products, become rich because of the surplus value of labor, and has kept the workers down without meeting their basic needs. Man has a right to meaningful work, acceptable room and board, and medical and dental care. When the workers rise up, the symptoms of unhappiness (e.g., religion, money, marriage, & family) will fade away.

Darwin (1809-1882) English naturalist who presented his theory of natural selection in *The Origin of Species*. His work as naturalist on the second voyage of the H.M.S. Beagle supported his view that evolution results from mutable variation and the struggle for survival. His *Descent of Man* argued for man as the most domesticated of animals and not as the height of creation for whom all other creatures were created. Darwin's theory, together with Oparin's theory of chemical evolution, created a revolution in science, arousing great controversy between evolutionists and those who hold to a literal interpretation of creation as found in *Genesis*.

Freud (1856-1939) Moravian doctor who became father of the modern psychoanalytic movement. He was among the first to treat adult neurotic behavior as having a cause. His search for the purpose of neurotic behavior led him to his theories of childhood sexuality, repressed memory, sublimation, and the unconscious. Human minds are described in terms of id (desire), ego (sensation), and superego (unconscious conscience). Psychoanalysis unlocks and uncovers our unconscious and subconscious selves. His methods included hypnosis, the analysis of dreams, and free association. Religion is man's psychological crutch. Freud's theories have had an impact on debates over free will.

Nietzsche (1844-1900) German thinker who argued that we ought to live the life of the superman (Der Übermensch). His epistemology (perspectivism) presented the view that all language lies and that we ought to lie creatively. In order to become a superman, one should force reality to bend to his will, take what he wants and use others as necessary. We need to be more like the Romans (whom Nietzsche calls *jungle animals*). He called Christian ethics emasculating and unnatural. He wrote of the *death of God* and believed in an *eternal recurrence*.

Camus (1913-1960) Algerian French existentialist who presented scorn as an answer to life's absurdity in his essay "The Myth of Sisyphus". We must emulate Sisyphus in his happy acceptance of his futile fate. By confronting our future we are able to freely choose ourselves.

Tolstoy (1828-1910) Russian novelist who presented five ways of dealing with life's absurdity. Ignorance, Epicureanism, strength (suicide), weakness, and a search for God are offered as possibilities in the quest for a meaningful existence. The last of these saved Tolstoy from suicide.