



SKE Society's

**RANI PARVATI DEVI COLLEGE
OF ARTS & COMMERCE**

Tilakwadi, Belagavi.

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

HANDBOOK

Course Title: Orthodox and Medieval
Indian philosophy

Staff Member: Pierre Carvalho

Class: BA IInd Semester

Year: December 2017 – April 2018

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SYLLABUS & TIME BUDGET:

B.A Second Semester

Paper: Orthodox and Medieval Indian philosophy

Course Objectives:

1. To develop the Indian method of logical thinking
2. To know the significance of yoga in life
3. To know the social philosophy

I. NYAYA and VAISHESHIKA:

1. Pramanas of Nyaya.
2. Categories of Vaisheshika.
3. Nature and proofs for God's existence according to Nyaya.

II. SANKHYA-YOGA:

1. Satkaryavada, purusha, prakriti and evolution of the world.
2. Patanjali yoga, its psychology, chitt vrutti, pancha klesh, , chittabhumi, samadhi .
3. Astanga-yoga.

III. PURVAMIMAMSA:

1. Theory of knowledge including Arthapathi and Anupalabdi
2. Theory of error: akhyati and viparitakyati.
3. Religion and Ethics; Karma, and apurva.

IV. VEDANTA:

1. Advait of Shankara: Nirguna Brahman, Maya and Vivarthavada.
2. Vishistadvaita of Ramanuja: Saguna Brahman, refutation of Maya, Parinamavada.
3. Dvaita of Maddhva; Saguna Brahman, refutation of Maya, panchabheda.

V. LINGAYATISM/VIRASHAIVISM:

1. Astavarana
2. Panchachara
3. Shatashala
4. Kayaka and dashoha gender and economic equality

Bibliography

I. In English:

1. Outlines of India Philosophy. By M. Hiriyanna
2. A Critical Survey of Indian Philosophy. By C. D. Sharma
3. Essentials of Indian Philosophy. By M. Hiriyanna
4. Contemporary Indian Philosophy. By T. M. P. Mahadevan
6. Indian Philosophy, Vols., I & II S. Radhkrishna
7. Introduction to Indian Philisophy Datta and Chatterjee
8. A Hand book of Veerasaivism S. C. Nandimath

II. In Kannada:

1. Bharatiya tatvashastrada ruparekhegalu: Tr. By Dr. Prabhushankar
2. Bharatiya tatvashastrada mulanshagalu: Tr.by K.B. Ramakrishnarao
3. Bharatiya darshana : By Baladeva Upadhaya
4. Sarva darshana sangraha: Tr. By Vidvan Immadi Shivabasava Swamigalu
5. Virashaiva darshana kaipidi: Tr. By Premadevi Malimatha



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II Semester B.A.2. Examination, April/May 2013
Opt. PHILOSOPHY
Orthodox and Medieval Indian Philosophy

Max. Marks : 80

Time : 3 Hours

Instructions : Answer all five questions.

ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಐದು ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಉತ್ತರಿಸಿರಿ.

All questions carry equal marks.

ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಗಳು ಸಮಾನಾಂಕಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿವೆ.

1. Explain the nature of perception as a source of knowledge according to Nyaya philosophy.

ನ್ಯಾಯ ದರ್ಶನದ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಪುತ್ಯಕ್ಷ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದ ಸ್ವರೂಪವನ್ನು ವಿವರಿಸಿರಿ.

OR

State and explain the categories of Vaishesika.

ವೈಶೇಷಿಕ ದರ್ಶನದ ಪದಾರ್ಥಗಳನ್ನು ತಿಳಿಸಿ ವಿವರಿಸಿರಿ.

2. Explain the concept of evolution of world according to samkhya.

ಸಾಂಖ್ಯ ದರ್ಶನದ ಜಗತ್ತಿನ ವಿಕಾಸದ ಕಲ್ಪನೆಯನ್ನು ವಿವರಿಸಿರಿ.

OR

What is Astanga-yoga ? Explain.

ಅಷ್ಟಾಂಗ ಯೋಗ ಎಂದರೇನು ? ವಿವರಿಸಿರಿ.

3. Bringout the nature of Arthapathi and Anupalabdi of Purvamimamsa.

ಪೂರ್ವಮಿಮಾಂಸಿಕರ ಅರ್ಥಾಪತ್ತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಅನುಪಲಬ್ಧಿಯ ಸ್ವರೂಪವನ್ನು ಕೊಡಿರಿ.

OR

Explain the concept of Apurva according to Purvamimamsa.

ಪೂರ್ವಮಿಮಾಂಸಿಕರ ಅಪೂರ್ವ ಕಲ್ಪನೆಯನ್ನು ವಿವರಿಸಿರಿ.



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4. What is the nature of Brahman according to Shankaracharya ? Explain.

ಶಂಕರಾಚಾರ್ಯರ ನಿರ್ಗುಣಬ್ರಹ್ಮರ ಸ್ವರೂಪವೇನು ? ವಿವರಿಸಿರಿ.

OR

What is the nature of reality according to Ramanujacharya ? Explain.

ರಾಮಾನುಜಾಚಾರ್ಯರ ಸತ್ಯದ ಸ್ವರೂಪ ಯಾವುದು ? ವಿವರಿಸಿರಿ.

5. What is the nature and significance of Astavarana according to Lingayatism ? Explain.

ಲಿಂಗಾಯತ ಧರ್ಮದ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಅಷ್ಟಾವರಣದ ಸ್ವರೂಪ ಮತ್ತು ಮಹತ್ವ ಯಾವುದು ? ವಿವರಿಸಿರಿ.

OR

Explain the nature and significance of Kayaka concept.

ಕಾಯಕ ಕಲ್ಪನೆಯ ಸ್ವರೂಪ ಮತ್ತು ಮಹತ್ವವನ್ನು ವಿವರಿಸಿರಿ.





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II Semester B.A.2 Degree Examination, April/May 2015

Philosophy

(Regular)

ORTHODOX AND MEDIEVAL INDIAN PHILOSOPHY

Time : 3 Hours]

[Max. Marks : 80

Instructions/ಸೂಚನೆಗಳು :

- 1) Answer all the *five* questions.
ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಐದು ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಉತ್ತರಿಸಿರಿ.
- 2) All questions carry *equal* marks.
ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಮಾನ ಅಂಕಗಳು.

1. (a) Explain the nature of anumana pramana of Nyaya.
ನ್ಯಾಯ ದರ್ಶನದ ಅನುಮಾನ ಪ್ರಮಾಣದ ಸ್ವರೂಪವನ್ನು ವಿವರಿಸಿರಿ.

Or/ಅಥವಾ

- (b) What are the proofs for God's existence according to Nyaya? Explain.
ನ್ಯಾಯ ದರ್ಶನದ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ದೇವರ ಅಸ್ತಿತ್ವಕ್ಕಾಗಿರುವ ಪ್ರಮಾಣಗಳಾವುವು? ವಿವರಿಸಿರಿ.

2. (a) Explain the process of evolution of world according to Samkya.
ಸಾಂಖ್ಯರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಜಗತ್ತಿನ ವಿಕಾಸದ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯನ್ನು ವಿವರಿಸಿರಿ.

Or/ಅಥವಾ

- (b) Explain the nature of Astanga yoga.
ಅಷ್ಟಾಂಗಯೋಗದ ಸ್ವರೂಪವನ್ನು ವಿವರಿಸಿರಿ.

3. (a) Explain the nature of arthapatti and anupalabdi.
ಅರ್ಥಾಪತ್ತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಅನುಪಲಬ್ಧಿಯ ಸ್ವರೂಪವನ್ನು ವಿವರಿಸಿರಿ.

Or/ಅಥವಾ

- (b) Explain the concept of Karma and apurva of purva mimamsa.
ಪೂರ್ವ ಮೀಮಾಂಸಿಕರ ಕರ್ಮ ಮತ್ತು ಅಪೂರ್ವ ಕಲ್ಪನೆಯನ್ನು ವಿವರಿಸಿರಿ.

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4. (a) Explain the nature of Brahma according to Madvacharya.
ಮದ್ವಾಚಾರ್ಯರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಬ್ರಹ್ಮದ ಸ್ವರೂಪವನ್ನು ವಿವರಿಸಿರಿ.

Or/ಅಥವಾ

- (b) Bring out the concept of Brahma and Mayaya according to Advaita of Shankaracharya.
ಶಂಕರಾಚಾರ್ಯರ ಅದ್ವೈತದ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಬ್ರಹ್ಮ ಮತ್ತು ಮಾಯದ ಕಲ್ಪನೆಯನ್ನು ಕೊಡಿರಿ.

5. (a) Explain the concept of Kayayaka and Dasoha of Lingayatism.
ಲಿಂಗಾಯತ ದರ್ಶನದ ಕಾಯಕ ಮತ್ತು ದಾಸೋಹದ ಕಲ್ಪನೆಯನ್ನು ವಿವರಿಸಿರಿ.

Or/ಅಥವಾ

- (b) What is astavarana? Explain.
ಅಷ್ಟಾವರಣ ಎಂದರೇನು? ವಿವರಿಸಿರಿ.

Glossary

Source: Wikipedia.org

A

Absolutism

- **Enlightened absolutism**
a form of governing by rulers who were influenced by the Enlightenment (18th-century and early 19th-century Europe).
- **Moral absolutism**
the position that there are absolute standards against which moral questions can be judged, and that certain actions are right or wrong, regardless of the context of the act.
- **Political absolutism**
a political theory that argues that one person should hold all power.

Absurdism

philosophy stating that the efforts of man to find meaning in the universe will ultimately fail because no such meaning exists (at least in relation to man). Absurdism is related to existentialism, though should not be confused with it, nor nihilism.

Aestheticism

another name for the *Aesthetic movement*, a loosely defined movement in art and literature in later 19th century Britain. Proponents of the movement held that art does not have any didactic purpose, it need only be beautiful. Life should copy Art. The main characteristics of the movement were: suggestion rather than statement, sensuality, massive use of symbols, and synaesthetic effects - that is, correspondence between words, colors and music.

Agnosticism

the philosophical view that the truth values of certain claims — particularly theological claims regarding the existence of God, gods, or deities — are unknown, inherently unknowable, or incoherent, and therefore, (some agnostics may go as far to say) irrelevant to life. Agnosticism, in both its strong (explicit) and weak (implicit) forms, is necessarily a non-atheist and non-theist position, though an agnostic person may also be either an atheist, a theist, or one who endorses neither position.

- **Agnostic atheism**
the philosophical view that encompasses both atheism and agnosticism. Due to definitional variance, an *agnostic atheist* does not believe in God or gods and by extension holds true: 'the existence and nonexistence of deities is currently unknown and may be absolutely unknowable', or 'knowledge of the existence and nonexistence of deities is irrelevant or unimportant', or 'abstention from claims of knowledge of the existence and nonexistence of deities is optimal'.
- **Agnostic theism**
the philosophical view that encompasses both theism and agnosticism. An agnostic theist is one who views that the truth value of claims regarding the existence of god(s) is unknown or inherently unknowable but chooses to believe in god(s) in spite of this.
- **Strong agnosticism**
also referred to as *explicit agnosticism* and *positive agnosticism*, it is the view that the evidence in the universe is such that it is impossible for humans to know whether or not any deities exist.
- **Weak agnosticism**
the position that the evidence is such that the existence or nonexistence of deities is currently unknown, but is not necessarily unknowable. Also called *implicit agnosticism*, *empirical agnosticism*, and *negative agnosticism*.

Altruism

the belief that people have a moral obligation to serve others or the "greater good"; term coined by Auguste Comte. Generally opposed to *self-interest* or *egoism*.

Anarchism

in politics, any of a number of views and movements that advocate the elimination of rulership or government. Other than being opposed to the state, there is no single defining position that all anarchists hold. Compare and contrast libertarianism.

Animism

"animism" has been applied to many different philosophical systems. This includes Aristotle's view of the relation of soul and body held also by the stoics and scholastics. On the other hand, monadology (Leibniz) has also been described as animistic. The name is most commonly applied to vitalism, which makes life, or life and mind, the directive principle in evolution and growth, holding that life is not merely mechanical but that there is a directive force that guides energy without altering its amount. An entirely different class of ideas, also termed animistic, is the belief in the *world soul*, held by Plato, Schelling and others. Lastly, in discussions of religion, "animism" refers to the belief in indwelling souls or spirits, particularly so-called "primitive" religions that consider everything inhabited by spirits.

Anthropocentrism

also called **Homocentrism**, is the practice, conscious or otherwise, of regarding the existence and/or concerns of human beings as the central fact of the universe. This is similar, but not identical, to the practice of relating all that happens in the universe to the human experience. To clarify, the first position concludes that the fact of human existence is the point of universal existence; the latter merely compares all activity to that of humanity, without making any teleological conclusions.

Anthropomorphism^[3]

a form of personification (applying human or animal qualities to inanimate objects) and similar to **prosopopoeia** (adopting the persona of another person), is the attribution of human characteristics and qualities to non-human beings, objects, or natural phenomena. Animals, forces of nature, and unseen or unknown authors of chance are frequent subjects of anthropomorphosis. Two examples are the attribution of a human body or of human qualities generally to God (or the gods), and creating imaginary persons who are the embodiment of an abstraction such as Death, Lust, War, or the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse.

Anti-realism

any position involving either the denial of the objective reality of entities of a certain type or the insistence that humans should be agnostic about their real existence. Thus, people may speak of **anti-realism** with respect to other minds, the past, the future, universals, mathematical entities (such as natural numbers), moral categories, the material world, or even thought.

Aristotelianism

tradition of philosophy that takes its defining inspiration from the work of Aristotle. Sometimes contrasted by critics with the rationalism and idealism of Plato, Aristotelianism is understood by its proponents as critically developing Plato's theories. Most particularly, Aristotelianism brings Plato's ideals down to Earth as goals and goods internal to natural species that are realized in activity. This is the characteristically Aristotelian idea of teleology.

- **Neo-Aristotelianism**

A view of literature and criticism propagated by the Chicago School -- Ronald S. Crane, Elder Olson, Richard McKeon, Wayne Booth, and others that means "A view of literature and criticism that takes a pluralistic attitude toward the history of literature and seeks to view literary works and critical theories intrinsically."

Asceticism

denotes a life characterised by refraining from worldly pleasures (austerity). Those who practice ascetic lifestyles often perceive their practices as virtuous and pursue them to achieve greater spirituality. In a more cynical context, ascetic may connote some form of self-mortification, ritual punishment of the body or harsh renunciation of pleasure. However, the word certainly does not necessarily imply a negative connotation.

Atheism

a condition of being without theistic beliefs; an absence of belief in the existence of gods, thus contrasting with theism. This definition includes both those who assert that there are no gods and those who have no beliefs at all regarding the existence of gods. However, narrower definitions often only qualify the former as atheism, the latter falling under the more general (but rarely used) term nontheism.

- **Agnostic atheism**

the philosophy that encompasses both atheism and agnosticism. Due to definitional variance, an *agnostic atheist* does not believe in God or gods and by extension

holds true: 'the existence and nonexistence of deities is currently unknown and may be absolutely unknowable', or 'knowledge of the existence and nonexistence of deities is irrelevant or unimportant', or 'abstention from claims of knowledge of the existence and nonexistence of deities is optimal'.

- **Strong atheism**

the philosophical position that deities do not exist. It is a form of explicit atheism, meaning that it consciously rejects theism. Some strong atheists also claim that the existence of any and all gods is logically impossible. Also called *positive atheism*, *hard atheism* and *gnostic atheism*. It should be noted that a strong atheist also fits the definition of a weak atheist, but that the reverse is not necessarily true: a strong atheist believes there is a lack or absence of evidence for justifying a belief in God or gods, but a weak atheist does not necessarily deny the possibility of God or god(s) existence.

- **Weak atheism**

disbelief in the existence of God or gods, without a commitment to the necessary non-existence of God or gods. Also referred to as *negative atheism* or *implicit atheism*. The weak atheist generally gives a broad definition of atheism as a lack or absence of evidence justifying a belief in God or gods, which defines atheism as a range of positions that entail non-belief, unjustified belief, doubt, or denial of theism.

Atomism

the theory that all the objects in the universe are composed of very small, indestructible elements. (This is the case for the Western [i.e., Greek] theories of atomism. Buddhists also have well-developed theories of atomism, which involve momentary, or non-eternal, atoms, that flash in and out of existence).

- **Social atomism**

the point-of-view that individuals rather than social institutions and values are the proper subject of analysis since all properties of institutions and values merely accumulate from the strivings of individuals.

- **Logical atomism**

Bertrand Russell developed *logical atomism* in an attempt to identify the atoms of thought, the pieces of thought that cannot be divided into smaller pieces of thought.

Authoritarianism

an organization or a state that enforces strong, and sometimes oppressive measures against those in its sphere of influence, generally without attempts at gaining their consent and often not allowing feedback on its policies. In an authoritarian state, citizens are subject to state authority in many aspects of their lives, including many that other political philosophies would see as matters of personal choice. There are various degrees of authoritarianism; even very democratic and liberal states will show authoritarianism to some extent, for example in areas of national security.

B

Behavioralism

(not to be confused with behaviorism of psychology) is an approach in political science that seeks to provide an objective, quantified approach to explaining and predicting political behavior. It is associated with the rise of the behavioral sciences, modeled after the natural sciences.

Behaviorism

(not to be confused with behavioralism of political science) is an approach to psychology based on the proposition that behavior can be researched scientifically without recourse to inner mental states. It is a form of materialism, denying any independent significance for the mind. Its significance for psychological treatment has been profound, making it one of the pillars of pharmacological therapy.

Buddhism

a dharmic religion and philosophy based on the teachings of the Buddha, Siddhārtha Gautama. The basic teachings of Buddhism have to do with the nature of suffering or dissatisfaction (*dukkha*) and its avoidance through ethical principles (the Eightfold Path). Buddhism originated in India, and is today largely followed in East Asia, including China, Japan, Korea, Tibet, and Thailand. Buddhism is divided

into different sects and movements, of which the largest are the Mahayana, Theravada, and Vajrayana.

C

Capitalism^[3]

an economic system in which all or most of the means of production are privately owned and operated (usually through employing wage labour, and for profit), and in which the investment of capital and the production, distribution and prices of commodities and services are determined mainly in a free market. Capitalism has also been called *laissez-faire economy*, *free market economy*, *free enterprise system*, *economic liberalism*, and *economic individualism*.

Cartesianism

a philosophy based on the ideas and works of René Descartes.

Christianism

another name for *Christianity*, the monotheistic religion recognizing Jesus Christ as its founder and central figure. With more than two billion adherents, or about one-third of the total world population, it is the largest world religion. Its origins are intertwined with Judaism, with which it shares much sacred lore, including the Old Testament (Hebrew Bible). Christianity is sometimes termed an Abrahamic religion, along with Judaism and Islam.

Classicism

in the arts, refers generally to a high regard for classical antiquity, as setting standards for taste that the classicist seeks to emulate. Classicism is usually contrasted with romanticism; the art of classicism typically seeks to be formal, restrained, and Apollonian (nothing in excess) rather than Dionysiac (excess), in Friedrich Nietzsche's opposition. It can also refer to the other periods of classicism. In theater, **Classicism** was developed by 17th century French playwrights from what they judged to be the rules of Greek classical theater, including the Classical unities of time, place and action.

Cognitivism

In ethics, cognitivism is the philosophical view that ethical sentences express propositions, and hence are capable of being true or false. See Cognitivism (ethics). More generally, cognitivism with respect to any area of discourse is the position that sentences used in that discourse are cognitive, that is, are meaningful and capable of being true or false. In psychology, cognitivism is the approach to understanding the mind that argues that mental function can be understood as the 'internal' rule bound manipulation of symbols. See Cognitivism (psychology).

Collectivism^[3]

a theoretical or practical emphasis on the group, as opposed to (and seen by many of its opponents to be at the expense of) the individual. Some psychologists define collectivism as a syndrome of attitudes and behaviors based on the belief that the basic unit of survival lies within a group, not the individual. Collectivists typically hold that the "greater good" of the group, is more important than the good of any particular individual who is one part of that larger organization. Some collectivists argue that the individual *incidentally* serves his own interests by working for the benefit of the group.

Communalism

Outside of South Asia, communalism involves a broad range of social movements and social theories in some way centered upon the community. Communalism can take the form of communal living or communal property, among others. It is sometimes said to put the interests of the community above the interests of the individual, but this is usually only done on the principle that the community exists for the benefit of the individuals who participate in it, so the best way to serve the interests of the individual is through the interests of the community.

Communism^[3]

a theoretical system of social organization and a political movement based on common ownership of the means of production. As a political movement, communism seeks to establish a classless society. A major force in world politics since the early 20th century, modern communism is generally associated with The Communist Manifesto of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, according to which the capitalist profit-based system of private ownership is replaced by a communist society in which the means of production are communally owned, such as through a gift economy. Often this process is said initiated by the revolutionary overthrow of the bourgeoisie (see Marxism), passes through a transitional period marked by the preparatory stage of socialism (see Leninism). Pure communism

has never been implemented, it remains theoretical: communism is, in Marxist theory, the end-state, or the result of state-socialism. The word is now mainly understood to refer to the political, economic, and social theory of Marxist thinkers, or life under conditions of Communist party rule.

Communitarianism

a group of related but distinct philosophies that began in the late 20th century, opposing aspects of liberalism and capitalism while advocating phenomena such as civil society. Not necessarily hostile to liberalism in the contemporary American sense of the word, communitarianism rather has a different emphasis, shifting the focus of interest toward communities and societies and away from the individual. The question of priority (individual or community) often has the largest impact in the most pressing ethical questions: health care, abortion, multiculturalism, hate speech, and so on.

Conceptualism

a doctrine in philosophy intermediate between nominalism and realism, that universals exist only within the mind and have no external or substantial reality.

Confucianism

an East Asian ethical and philosophical system originally developed from the teachings of the early Chinese sage Confucius. It is a complex system of moral, social, political, and religious thought that has had tremendous influence on the history of Chinese civilization down to the 21st century. Some have considered it to have been the "state religion" of imperial China.

Consequentialism

the belief that what ultimately matters in evaluating actions or policies of action are the consequences that result from choosing one action or policy rather than the alternative.

Constructivism

the view that reality, or at least humans' knowledge of it, is a value-laden subjective construction rather than a passive acquisition of objective features.

Consumerism :attachment to materialistic values or possessions

Contextualism

a collection of views that emphasize the *context* in which an action, utterance or expression occurs, and argues that, in some important respect, the action, utterance or expression can only be understood within that context. Contextualist views hold that philosophically controversial concepts, such as "meaning P", "knowing that P", "having a reason to A", and possibly even "being true" or "being right" only have meaning relative to a specified context. Some philosophers hold that context-dependence may lead to relativism; nevertheless, contextualist views are increasingly popular within philosophy.

Conventionalism

philosophical attitude that fundamental principles of a certain kind are grounded on (explicit or implicit) agreements in society, rather than on external reality. Although this attitude is commonly held with respect to the rules of grammar and the principles of etiquette, its application to the propositions of law, ethics, science, mathematics, and logic is more controversial.

Creationism^[3]

also referred to as **creation theology** is the belief that humans, life, the Earth, and the universe were created by a supreme being or deity's supernatural intervention. The intervention may be seen either as an *act of creation* from nothing (*ex nihilo*) or the emergence of order from pre-existing chaos.

Cynicism

was originally the philosophy of a group of ancient Greeks called the Cynics (*main article*), founded by Antisthenes. Nowadays the word generally refers to the opinions of those inclined to disbelieve in human sincerity, in virtue, or in altruism: individuals who maintain that only self-interest motivates human behavior. A modern cynic typically has a highly contemptuous attitude towards social norms, especially those that serve more of a ritualistic purpose than a practical one, and will tend to dismiss a substantial proportion of popular beliefs, conventional morality and accepted wisdom as irrelevant or obsolete nonsense.

D

Darwinism^[6]

theory of biological evolution developed by the English naturalist Charles Darwin (1809-1882) and others, stating that all species of organisms arise and develop through the natural selection of small, inherited variations that increase the individual's ability to compete, survive, and reproduce. See also *History of evolutionary thought*.

Deconstructionism

school and a set of methods of textual criticism aimed at understanding the assumptions and ideas that form the basis for thought and belief. Also called "deconstruction", its central concern is a radical critique of the metaphysics of the Western philosophical tradition, in which it identifies a logocentrism or "metaphysics of presence" which holds that speech-thought (the *logos*) is a privileged, ideal, and self-present entity, through which all discourse and meaning derive. This logocentrism is the primary target of deconstruction.

Deductivism

A philosophy that holds that scientific inquiry proceeds by formulating a hypothesis in a form that could conceivably be falsified by a test on observable data.

Deism

the view that reason, rather than revelation or tradition, should be the basis of belief in God. Deists reject both organized and revealed religion and maintain that reason is the essential element in all knowledge. For a "rational basis for religion" they refer to the cosmological argument (first cause argument), the teleological argument (argument from design), and other aspects of what was called *natural religion*. Deism has become identified with the classical belief that God created but does not intervene in the world, though this is not a necessary component of deism.

- **Pandeism**

a type of deism that combines the deistic belief in a rationally determined, non-intervening God with the idea of pantheism (under theism, below) of God being identical to the Universe.

Deontologism

ethical theory considered solely on duty and rights, where one has an unchanging moral obligation to abide by a set of defined principles. Thus, the ends of any action never justify the means in this ethical system. If someone were to do their moral duty, then it would not matter if it had negative consequences. Therefore, consequentialism is the philosophical antithesis of this theory.

Descriptivism

also called the *Descriptivist theory of names*, is a view of the nature of the meaning and reference of proper names generally attributed to Gottlob Frege and Bertrand Russell. The theory consists essentially in the idea that the meanings of names are identical to the descriptions associated with them by speakers, while their referents are determined to be the objects that satisfy these descriptions.

Determinism

the philosophical proposition that every event, including human cognition, decision and action, is causally determined by an unbroken chain of prior occurrences.

- **Historical determinism**

the philosophical proposition that events in history were determined by a series of occurrences previous to the event.

Dogmatism

Inflexible adherence to rigid belief or doctrine established by a religion, ideology or any kind of organization, held to be authoritative and not to be disputed, doubted or diverged from. A dogmatic position is not open to rational argument, and is "established" only according to a particular point of view, and therefore of doubtful foundation.

Dualism

a set of beliefs that begins with the claim that the mental and the physical have a fundamentally different nature. It is contrasted with varying kinds of monism, including materialism and phenomenalism. Dualism is one answer to the mind-body problem. Pluralism holds that there are even more kinds of events or things in the world.

- **Substance dualism**

is a type of ontological dualism defended by Descartes in which it is claimed that there are two fundamental kinds of substance: mental and material. The mental does not extend in space, and material cannot think. It holds that immortal souls occupy an independent realm of existence, while apparently bodies die. This view contradicts physicalism.

Dynamism

cosmological framework developed by Gottfried Leibniz (1646–1716). The idea behind Dynamism in metaphysical cosmology is that the material world can be explained in terms of active, point-like *forces*, with no extension but with action at a distance. Dynamism describes that which exists as simple elements, or for Leibniz, Monads, and groups of elements that have only the essence of forces. It was developed as a reaction against the passive view of matter in philosophical mechanism.

E

Eclecticism

a conceptual approach that does not hold rigidly to a single paradigm or set of assumptions, but instead draws upon multiple theories, styles, or ideas to gain complementary insights into a subject, or applies different theories in particular cases.

Egalitarianism^[3]

a political doctrine that holds that all people should be treated as equals.

Egoism

either a descriptive theory that maintains all conscious acts ultimately concern promoting one's self-interest, or a normative theory that maintains one should pursue one's self-interest.

Emotionalism

an inclination to rely on or place focus on emotion.

Emotivism

the non-cognitivist meta-ethical theory that ethical judgments are primarily *expressions* of one's own attitude and *imperatives* meant to change the attitudes and actions of another. It is heavily associated with the work of A. J. Ayer and C. L. Stevenson, and it is related to the prescriptivism of R. M. Hare.

Empiricism

the doctrine that all knowledge ultimately comes from experience, denying the notion of innate ideas or *a priori* knowledge about the world. It is opposed with rationalism.

Environmentalism

a concern for the preservation, restoration, or improvement of the natural environment, such as the conservation of natural resources, prevention of pollution, and certain land use actions. It often supports the struggles of indigenous peoples against the spread of globalization to their way of life, which is seen as less harmful to the environment.

Epicureanism

while often considered to be the philosophy of pleasure seeking, in fact refers to a middle-path philosophy defining happiness as success in avoiding pain, in the form of both mental worry and physical discomfort, in order to produce a state of tranquility.

Epistemology

a term first used by the Scottish philosopher James Frederick Ferrier to describe the branch of philosophy concerned with the nature and scope of knowledge;^{[7][8]} it is also referred to as "theory of knowledge". Put concisely, it is the study of knowledge and justified belief. It questions what knowledge is and how it can be acquired, and the extent to which knowledge pertinent to any given subject or entity can be acquired. Much of the debate in this field has focused on the philosophical analysis of the nature of knowledge and how it relates to connected notions such as truth, belief, and justification. The term was probably first introduced in Ferrier's *Institutes of Metaphysic: The Theory of Knowing and Being* (1854), p. 46.^[9]

Epiphenomenalism

the view in philosophy of mind according to which physical events have mental effects, but mental events have no effects of any kind. In other words, the causal relations go only one way, from physical to mental. In recent times it is usually considered a type of dualism, because it postulates physical events but also non-physical mental events; but historically it has sometimes been thought a kind of monism, because of its sharp divergence from substance dualism.

Equalitarianism: another spelling of egalitarianism.

Essentialism

the belief and practice centered on a philosophical claim that for any specific kind of entity it is at least theoretically possible to specify a finite list of characteristics, all of which any entity must have to belong to the group defined.

Eternalism

a philosophical approach to the ontological nature of time. It builds on the standard method of modeling time as a dimension in physics, to give time a similar ontology to that of space. This would mean that time is just another dimension, that future events are "already there", and that there is no objective flow of time.

Ethical egoism

the normative ethical position that moral agents ought to do what is in their own self-interest. It is distinguished from psychological egoism and rational egoism. It contrasts with ethical altruism, which holds that moral agents have an ethical obligation to help or serve others. Ethical egoism does not, however, require moral agents to disregard the well-being of others, nor does it require that a moral agent refrains from considering the well-being of others in moral deliberation. What is in an agent's self-interest may be incidentally detrimental to, beneficial to, or neutral in its effect on others. It allows for the possibility of either as long as what is chosen is efficacious in satisfying self-interest of the agent. Ethical egoism is sometimes used to support libertarianism or anarchism, political positions based partly on a belief that individuals should not coercively prevent others from exercising freedom of action.

Ethnocentrism

the tendency to look at the world primarily from the perspective of one's own culture. It is defined as the viewpoint that "one's own group is the center of everything (better than all other cultures)," against which all other groups are judged. Ethnocentrism often entails the belief that one's own race or ethnic group is the most important and/or that some or all aspects of its culture are superior to those of other groups.

Eudaimonism

A system of ethics that evaluates actions in terms of their capacity to produce happiness.

Existentialism

the philosophical movement that views human existence as having a set of underlying themes and characteristics, such as anxiety, dread, freedom, awareness of death, and consciousness of existing, that are primary. That is, they cannot be reduced to or explained by a natural-scientific approach or any approach that attempts to detach itself from or rise above these themes.

● **Christian existentialism**

the philosophical movement shares similar views to existentialism with the added idea that the Judeo-Christian God plays an important part in coping with the underlying themes of human existence.

Experientialism

the philosophy that knowledge is to be measured according to experiences and first hand accounts.

Experimentalism

a philosophy that uses data obtained from experiments in order to ascertain the integrity of an idea or proposed concept.

Expressionism

an aesthetic and artistic movement that distorted reality for enhanced or overexaggerated emotional effect. It can also apply to some literature; the works of Franz Kafka and Georg Kaiser are often said to be expressionistic, for example.

Expressivism

a theory about the meaning of moral language. According to expressivism, sentences that employ moral terms—for example, "It is wrong to torture an innocent human being"—are not descriptive or fact-stating; moral terms such as "wrong," "good," or "just" do not refer to real, in-the-world properties. The primary function of moral sentences, according to expressivism, is not to assert any matter of fact, but rather to express an evaluative attitude toward an object of evaluation.^[10] Because the function of moral language is non-descriptive, moral sentences do not have any truth conditions.^[11] Hence, expressivists either do not allow that moral sentences have truth value, or rely on a notion of truth value that does not appeal to any descriptive truth conditions being met for moral sentences.

Externalism^[3]

in epistemology, the theory that justification can hold elements not known to the subject of the belief.

F

Falsificationism

the idea that a proposition or theory cannot be scientific if it does not admit the possibility of being shown to be false. For example, the proposition "All crows are black" is a scientific proposition because it can be falsified by the observation of one white crow.

Fascism

political ideology and mass movement that seeks to place the nation, defined in exclusive biological, cultural, and historical terms, above all other loyalties, and to create a mobilized national community. Many different characteristics are attributed to fascism by different scholars, but the following elements are usually seen as its integral parts: nationalism, authoritarianism, militarism, corporatism, totalitarianism, collectivism, anti-liberalism, and anti-communism.

Feminism

a diverse collection of social theories, political movements, and moral philosophies, largely motivated by or concerning the experiences of women, especially in terms of their social, political, and economic situation. As a social movement, feminism largely focuses on limiting or eradicating gender inequality and promoting women's rights, interests, and issues in society.

Fatalism

the view that human deliberation and actions are pointless and ineffectual in determining events, because whatever will be will be. One ancient argument, called the *idle argument*, went like this: "If it is fated for you to recover from your illness, then you will recover whether you call a doctor or not. Likewise, if you are fated not to recover, you will not do so even if you call a doctor. So, calling a doctor makes no difference." Arguments like this are usually rejected even by causal determinists, who may say that it may be determined that only a doctor can cure you.

Functionalism

the dominant theory of mental states in modern philosophy. Functionalism was developed as an answer to the mind-body problem because of objections to both identity theory and logical behaviourism. Its core idea is that the mental states can be accounted for without taking into account the underlying physical medium (the neurons), instead attending to higher-level functions such as beliefs, desires, and emotions.

G

H

Hedonism

it could mean the ethical view that pleasure is the greatest good, and that pleasure should be the standard in deciding which course of action to pursue. It is usually associated with a more physical, egoistic, or unrefined definition of "pleasure" than that found in the related doctrine of utilitarianism. it could also mean the descriptive view that people are primarily motivated by seeking pleasure and avoiding pain.

Hegelianism

a philosophy developed by Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel. It can be summed up by a favorite motto by Hegel: "The rational alone is real," meaning that all reality is capable of being expressed in rational categories. His goal was to reduce to a more synthetic unity the system of transcendental idealism.

Henotheism *see its entry under theism, below.*

Historicism

the theory that claims 1) that there is an organic succession of developments (also known as historicism or the German *historismus*), and 2) that local conditions and peculiarities influence the results in a decisive way. It can be contrasted with reductionist theories that suppose that all developments can be explained by fundamental principles (such as in economic determinism).

Holism: the idea that all the properties of a given system cannot be determined or explained by the sum of its constituent parts alone. Instead, the system as a whole determines in an important way

how the parts behave. The general principle of holism is concisely summarized by the phrase "The whole is more than the sum of its parts." Holism is seen as the opposite of reductionism.

Humanism^[3]

a range of ethical views that consider human nature to be the source of values.

Hylozoism

the philosophical conjecture that all or some material things possess life, or that all life is inseparable from matter.

I

Idealism

the doctrine that reality or knowledge is founded on ideas (mental experience). Depending on the specific *ideal*, idealism is usually juxtaposed with materialism or realism.

- **Objective idealism**

is an idealistic metaphysics that postulates that there is in an important sense only one perceiver, and that this perceiver is one with that which is perceived.

- **German idealism**

a movement in philosophy, started with Immanuel Kant's transcendental idealism, centered in Germany. Many prominent exponents include Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, Johann Gottlieb Fichte and Friedrich Wilhelm Joseph Schelling.

- **Subjective idealism**

a philosophy in which human experiences are based on perceptions.

- **Transcendental idealism**

the philosophy of Immanuel Kant and later Kantian and German Idealist philosophers; a view according to which human experience is not of things as they are in themselves, but of those things as they appear to human beings. It differs from standard (empirical) idealism in that it does not claim that the objects of human experience would be in any sense *within* the mind. The idea is that whenever humans experience something, they experience it as it is *for themselves*: the object is real as well as mind-independent, but is, in a sense, altered by people's cognition (by the categories and the forms of sensibility, space and time). Transcendental idealism denies that people could have knowledge of the thing in itself. A view that holds the opposite is called transcendental realism.

Illusionism

a philosophy that holds that there is no material world but rather a collection of illusions formed by human consciousness that results in an environment for all humans to live in.

Immaterialism

a philosophy that holds that there are no material objects, but rather all reality is a construct of a flawed perception.

Immoralism

The philosophy that man should try to strive for the perfect aesthetic of eternal life.

Immortalism

another name for immortality (or eternal life), is the concept of existing for a potentially infinite, or indeterminate length, of time. Throughout history, humans have had the desire to live forever. What form an unending or indefinitely-long human life would take, or whether it is even possible, has been the subject of much speculation, fantasy, and debate.

Incompatibilism

the belief that free will and determinism are not logically compatible categories.

Indeterminism

the philosophical belief contradictory to determinism: that there are events that do not correspond with determinism (and therefore are uncaused in some sense).

Individualism

in political philosophy, the view that the rights or well-being of individuals are to be protected, rather than the well-being of groups such as nations or states, ideologies (such as communism or democracy), or religious communities (such as Christendom). Individualism is often associated with classical liberalism and opposed to the various sorts of communalism and nationalism.

Inductivism

a philosophy that holds that scientific research is guided by the various observations and data produced by previous science experiments; In other words, that science progresses in a direction that has prior experimental data. It exists both in a classical naive version, which has been highly influential, and in various more sophisticated versions. The naive version, which trace back to thinkers such as Abū Rayhān al-Bīrūnī^[14] and David Hume, says that general statements (theories) have to be based on empirical observations, which are subsequently generalized into statements that can be regarded as true or probably true.

Innatism

doctrine that holds the mind is born with ideas or knowledge, and is not a 'blank slate' at birth as early empiricists such as John Locke claimed. It asserts that not all knowledge is obtained from experience and the senses.

- **Knowledge innatism**

doctrine that asserts that humans have access to knowledge that is possessed innately.

- **Idea innatism**

(also known as **concept innatism**), doctrine that asserts that humans have access to certain inborn ideas.

Intellectualism

doctrine about the possibility of deriving knowledge from reason alone, *intellectualism* can stand for a general approach emphasising the importance of learning and logical thinking. Criticism of this attitude, sometimes summed up as *Left Bank*, caricatures intellectualism's faith in the mind and puts it in opposition to emotion, instinct, and primitivist values in general.

Intentionalism

a philosophy that questions the underpinnings of original intent and explores whether or not humans are the source of their own actions or are controlled by a higher power.

Interactionism

a philosophy that explores the relationship between cause and effect in regards to the human perception of the universe.

Interpretivism

in epistemology, the view that all knowledge is a matter of interpretation.

Intuitionism

in the philosophy of mathematics, **intuitionism**, or **neointuitionism** (opposed to preintuitionism), is an approach to mathematics as the constructive mental activity of humans. That is, mathematics does not consist of analytic activities wherein deep properties of existence are revealed and applied. Instead, logic and mathematics are the application of internally consistent methods to realize more complex mental constructs.

Irrationalism

a philosophy that claims that science is inferior to intuition, with art and the conquest of the aesthetic being the ultimate transcendence of the humanity.

Islamism

a set of political ideologies derived from various religious views of Muslim fundamentalists, which hold that Islam is not only a religion, but also a political system that governs the legal, economic and social imperatives of the state. Islamist movements seek to re-shape the state by implementing a conservative formulation of Sharia. Islamists regard themselves as Muslims rather than Islamists, while moderate Muslims reject this notion.

J**Jainism**^[3]

a dharmic religion centered around asceticism and ahimsa, or nonviolence.

Judaism

a monotheistic, Abrahamic religion descended from the ancient Hebrews.

K

Kantianism

the philosophy of Immanuel Kant, a German philosopher born in Königsberg, Germany (now Kaliningrad, Russia). The terms *Kantianism* or *Kantian* can refer to contemporary positions in philosophy of mind, epistemology, and ethics.

L

Liberalism

in politics, a position that favors liberty as a political value. Liberalism has taken many meanings throughout history, but commonalities include a focus on individual liberty, democratic republicanism (liberal democracy), and equality under the law.

Libertarianism

in metaphysics, the claim that free will exists; generally opposed to determinism. (But see compatibilism.) In political philosophy, either of two anti-statist political positions.

Logical positivism

a philosophy (of science), that originated in the Vienna Circle in the 1920s, which holds that philosophy should aspire to the same sort of rigor as science. Philosophy should provide strict criteria for judging sentences true, false and meaningless. Although the logical positivists held a wide range of beliefs on many matters, they all shared an interest in science and deep skepticism of the theological and metaphysical. Following Wittgenstein, many subscribed to the correspondence theory of truth, although some, like Neurath, believed in coherentism. They believed that all knowledge should be based on logical inference from simple "protocol sentences" grounded in observable facts. Hence many supported forms of realism, materialism, philosophical naturalism, and empiricism. Logical positivism is also referred to as *logical empiricism*, *rational empiricism*, and *neo-positivism*.

Logicism

one of the schools of thought in the philosophy of mathematics, putting forth the theory that mathematics is an extension of logic and therefore all mathematics is reducible to logic. [15] Bertrand Russell and Alfred North Whitehead championed this theory fathered by Gottlob Frege. Frege gave up on the project after Russell recognized a paradox exposing an inconsistency in naive set theory. Russell and Whitehead continued on with the project in their *Principia Mathematica*. [16]

M

Marxism

a set of philosophical, political and economic positions and movements based on the work of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. Marx's philosophy of history included the notion of class struggle within dialectical materialism. Marxism was the intellectual foundation for the 20th-century political movement known as Communism, and was developed into various factions such as Leninism, Stalinism, Maoism, and Trotskyism, each hewing to the ideas of a particular political leader.

Materialism

the philosophical view that the only thing that can truly be said to 'exist' is matter; that fundamentally, all things are composed of 'material' and all phenomena are the result of material interactions.

- **Dialectical materialism**

considered to be the philosophical basis of Marxism, it states that ideas and arguments can only exist as matter and that the subconscious protohuman does not exist.

- **Historical materialism**

the methodological approach to the study of society, economics, and history first articulated by Karl Marx. His fundamental proposition of historical materialism can be summed up in the following: *It is not the consciousness of men that determines their existence, but their social existence that determines their consciousness.* — Karl Marx, *Preface to A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy* Historical materialism

looks for the causes of developments and changes in human societies in the way humans collectively make the means to live, thus giving an emphasis, through economic analysis, to everything that co-exists with the economic base of society (e.g. social classes, political structures, ideologies).

Mechanism

theory that all natural phenomena can be explained by physical causes. It can be contrasted with vitalism, the philosophical theory that vital forces are active in living organisms, so that life cannot be explained solely by mechanism.

Mentalism

the view, in philosophy of mind, that the mind and mental states exist as causally efficacious inner states of persons. The view should be distinguished from substance dualism, which is the view that the mind and the body (or brain) are two distinct kinds of things, which nevertheless interact (somehow) with one another. Although this dualistic view of the mind-body connection entails mentalism, mentalism does not entail dualism. Jerry Fodor and Noam Chomsky have been two of mentalism's most ardent recent defenders.

Metaphysics

a traditional branch of philosophy concerned with explaining the fundamental nature of being and the world that encompasses it,[18] although the term is not easily defined.[19] Traditionally, metaphysics attempts to answer two basic questions in the broadest possible terms:[20] Ultimately, what *is there?* and what *is it like?* A person who studies metaphysics is called a *metaphysician*. [21] The metaphysician attempts to clarify the fundamental notions by which people understand the world, e.g., existence, objects and their properties, space and time, cause and effect, and possibility. A central branch of metaphysics is ontology, the investigation into the basic categories of being and how they relate to each other. Another central branch of metaphysics is cosmology, the study of the origin, fundamental structure, nature, and dynamics of the universe. Some include epistemology as another central focus of metaphysics, but other philosophers question this.

Modernism

a series of reforming cultural movements in art and architecture, music, literature and the applied arts, which emerged roughly in the period of 1884-1914. The term covers many political, cultural and artistic movements rooted in the changes in Western society at the end of the nineteenth and beginning of the 20th century. It is a trend of thought that affirms the power of human beings to create, improve, and reshape their environment, with the aid of scientific knowledge, technology and practical experimentation.

Monism

the metaphysical and theological view that there is only one principle, essence, substance or energy. Monism is to be distinguished from dualism, which holds that ultimately there are two principles, and from pluralism, which holds that ultimately there are many principles.

Monotheism

see its entry under theism, below.

Moral absolutism

The belief in a single set of 'rights' and 'wrongs', with no variation. These are known by all people and to not respect them is a choice.

Moral realism

see its entry under realism, below.

Moral relativism

the view that there are no universal moral truths.

Moral universalism

the view that there are moral propositions that apply universally.

Mysticism

the pursuit of achieving communion, identity with, or conscious awareness of ultimate reality, the divinity, spiritual truth, or God through direct experience, intuition, or insight. Traditions may include a belief in the literal existence of dimensional realities beyond empirical perception, or a belief that a *true* human perception of the world goes beyond current logical reasoning or intellectual comprehension.

N

Naturalism

any of several philosophical stances, typically those descended from materialism and pragmatism, that do not distinguish the supernatural (including strange entities like non-natural values, and universals as they are commonly conceived) from nature. Naturalism does not necessarily claim that phenomena or hypotheses commonly labeled as supernatural do not exist or are wrong, but insists that all phenomena and hypotheses can be studied by the same methods and therefore anything considered supernatural is either nonexistent, unknowable, or not inherently different from natural phenomena or hypotheses.

Nihilism

philosophical view that the world, and especially human existence, is without meaning, purpose, comprehensible truth, or essential value. It is more often a charge leveled against a particular idea than a position to which someone is overtly subscribed. Movements such as Dada, Deconstructionism, and punk have been described by various observers as "nihilist."

Non-cognitivism

the meta-ethical view that moral statements do not assert propositions i.e. they do not express factual claims or beliefs and therefore lack truth-value. This view should be distinguished from moral realism, skepticism, subjectivism, relativism, and nihilism; proponents of these views avow that moral statements are either true or false.

O

Objectivism

in ethics, the belief that certain acts are objectively right or wrong.

Occasionalism

philosophical theory about causation stating that created substances cannot be efficient causes of events. Instead, all events are taken to be caused directly by God Himself. (A related theory, which has been called 'occasional causation', also denies a link of efficient causation between mundane events, but may differ as to the identity of the true cause that replaces them).

Ontologism

ideological system that maintains that God and Divine ideas are the first object of humans' intelligence and that the intuition of God the first act of their intellectual knowledge. Note that Martin Heidegger used the term *Onto-theology*, that is answering questions of being with direct reference of belief in God.

Optimism

historically, the philosophical position that this is the best of all possible worlds, usually associated with Gottfried Leibniz. More often used to refer to a cheerful or positive worldview.

P

Pandeism

combines deism (above) with pantheism (under theism, below) to propose a deistic God that becomes a pantheistic Universe; coined by Moritz Lazarus and Heymann Steinthal in *Zeitschrift für Völkerpsychologie und Sprachwissenschaft* (1859).

Panentheism

see its entry under *theism, below*.

Panpsychism

either the view that all parts of matter involve mind, or the more holistic view that the whole universe is an organism that possesses a mind. It is thus a stronger and more ambitious view than hylozoism, which holds only that all things are alive. This is not to say that panpsychism believes that all matter is alive or even conscious but rather that the constituent parts of matter are composed of some form of mind and are sentient.

Pantheism

see its entry under *theism, below*.

Pessimism

a belief that the experienced world is the worst possible. It involves a general belief that things are bad, and tend to become worse; or that looks to the eventual triumph of evil over good; it contrasts

with optimism, the contrary belief in the goodness and betterment of things generally. A common conundrum illustrates optimism versus pessimism with the question - does one regard a given glass of water as: "Is the glass half empty or half full?" Conventional wisdom expects optimists to reply with half full and pessimists to respond with half empty, but this is not always the case.

Phenomenalism

in epistemology and the philosophy of perception, *phenomenalism* is the view that physical objects do not exist as things in themselves but only as perceptual phenomena or sensory stimuli (e.g. redness, hardness, softness, sweetness, etc.) situated in time and in space. In particular, phenomenalism reduces talk about physical objects in the external world to talk about *bundles of sense-data*.

Philosophy

broad field of inquiry concerning *knowledge*; in which the definition of knowledge itself is one of the subjects investigated. Philosophy is the pursuit of wisdom, spans the nature of the universe and human nature (of the mind and the body), the relationships between these, and between people. It explores what and how people come to know, including existence itself, and how that knowledge is reliably and usefully represented, and communicated between and among humans, whether in thought, by language, or with mathematics. Philosophy is the predecessor and complement of science, and its foundation. It develops notions about the issues that underlie science, and ponders the nature of thought itself. In science, the scientific method, which involves repeated observations of the results of controlled experiments, is an available and highly successful philosophical methodology. Within fields of study that are concerned directly with humans (economics, psychology, sociology and so forth), in which experimental methodologies are not generally available, subdisciplines of philosophy are developed to provide a rational basis of study in the respective fields.

Physicalism

the metaphysical position asserting that everything that exists has a physical property; that is, that there are no kinds of things other than physical things. In contemporary philosophy physicalism is most frequently associated with philosophy of mind, in particular the mind/body problem, in which it holds that the mind is a physical thing in some sense. Physicalism is also called "materialism", but the term "physicalism" is preferable because it has evolved with the physical sciences to incorporate far more sophisticated notions of physicality than matter, for example wave/particle relationships and unseen, non-material forces.

Platonism

the school of philosophy founded by Plato. Often used to refer to Platonic idealism, the belief that the entities of the phenomenal world are imperfect reflections of an ideal truth. In metaphysics sometimes used to mean the claim that universals exist independent of particulars. Predecessor and precursor of Aristotelianism.

Pluralism

in the area of philosophy of the mind, distinguishes a position where one believes there to be ultimately many kinds of substances in the world, as opposed to monism and dualism. (See also cosmotheism).

Polytheism

the belief in or worship of multiple deities (usually assembled in a pantheon) together with associated mythology and rituals.

Positivism

philosophical position that the only authentic knowledge is scientific knowledge. It is an approach to the philosophy of science, deriving from Enlightenment thinkers like Pierre-Simon Laplace (and many others). See also logical positivism.

Postmodernism

philosophical movement characterized by the postmodern criticism and analysis of Western philosophy. Beginning as a critique of Continental philosophy, it was heavily influenced by phenomenology, structuralism and existentialism, and by the philosophers Friedrich Nietzsche and Martin Heidegger. It was also influenced to some degree by Ludwig Wittgenstein's later criticisms of analytic philosophy. Within postmodern philosophy, there are numerous interrelated fields, including deconstruction and several fields beginning with the prefix "post-", such as post-structuralism, post-Marxism, and post-feminism. In particular postmodern philosophy has spawned a huge literature of critical theory.

Pragmatism

philosophy that originated in the United States in the late 19th century. Pragmatism is characterized by the insistence on consequences, utility and practicality as vital components of meaning and truth. Pragmatism objects to the view that human concepts and intellect represent reality, and therefore stands in opposition to both formalist and rationalist schools of philosophy. Rather, pragmatism holds that it is only in the struggle of intelligent organisms with the surrounding environment that theories acquire significance, and only with a theory's success in this struggle that it *becomes* true.

Prescriptivism

meta-ethical theory about the semantical content of moral statements, introduced by the philosopher R. M. Hare in his book *The Language of Morals*. It holds that moral statements function similarly to imperatives. For example, according to prescriptivism, the statement "Killing is wrong" means something like "You shouldn't kill". What it expresses is an *imperative*.

Psychological egoism

the descriptive view that humans are always motivated by self-interest.

Psychologism

a philosophy that holds that human knowledge can be expanded solely through philosophical study.

R

Rationalism

a theory or method based on the thesis that human reason can in principle be the source of all knowledge. In the modern period, rationalism was initially championed by René Descartes and spread during the 17th and 18th centuries, primarily in continental Europe. It is opposed with empiricism.

Realism

a view of a reality ontologically independent of conception, perception, etc. Objects have certain properties regardless of any thought to the contrary.

Reductionism

a number of related, contentious theories that hold, very roughly, that the nature of complex things can always be reduced to (be explained by) simpler or more fundamental things. This is said of objects, phenomena, explanations, theories, and meanings. In short, it is philosophical materialism taken to its logical consequences.

Relativism

the view that the meaning and value of human beliefs and behaviors have no absolute reference. Relativists claim that humans understand and evaluate beliefs and behaviors only in terms of, for example, their historical and cultural context. Philosophers identify many different *kinds* of relativism depending upon what allegedly depends on something and what something depends on.

- **Moral relativism**

the belief that there are no moral facts independent of an individual's or culture's beliefs or desires. Depending on the version of relativism, a given moral statement is true only if an individual (in the case of ethical subjectivism) believes it to be, or if a culture (in the case of cultural relativism) believes it to be.

- **Linguistic relativism**

the idea that differences in language are related to differences in cognition of the language users. It is an idea inferred from Linguistic determinism, and subject in the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis.

- **Methodological relativism**

the idea that a researcher must suspend his or her own cultural biases while attempting to understand beliefs and behaviors in their local contexts. See ethnocentrism.

S

Scholasticism

school of philosophy taught by the academics (or **schoolmen**) of medieval universities circa 1100–1500. Scholasticism attempted to reconcile the philosophy of the ancient classical philosophers with medieval Christian theology. The primary purpose of scholasticism was to find the answer to a

question or resolve a contradiction. It is most well known in its application in medieval theology but was applied to classical philosophy and other fields of study. It is not a philosophy or theology on its own, but a tool and method for learning that emphasizes dialectical reasoning.

Scientism

the belief that science has primacy over other ways of obtaining knowledge. This term is often used in a derogatory manner, to refer to a level of trust or reliance upon scientific progress the speaker deems excessive.

Secularism

in politics, the notion of the independence of the state from religion; the advocacy of a state that is neutral on matters of religious belief. Secularism, or religious freedom, is usually considered to go both ways: the state should not compel the people to follow (or not follow) a religion; and likewise religious doctrines should not control the actions of the state.

Sensualism

philosophical theory in which sensations and perception are the basic and most important form of true cognition. This opposes realism. The base principle of sensualism is "there is not anything in mind, which hasn't been in feelings". Philosophers of sensualism include John Locke and Étienne Bonnot de Condillac.

Skepticism

a school or method of doubt regarding what is held as knowledge.

Socialism

ideology with the core belief that a society should exist in which popular collectives control the means of power, and therefore the means of production. Though the de facto meaning of socialism has changed over time, it remains strongly-related to the establishment of an organized working class; created through either revolution or by social evolution, with the purpose of building a classless society. Socialism had its origins in the ideals of The Enlightenment, during the Industrial Age/Age of Industrialization, amid yearnings for a more egalitarian society. It has also increasingly become concentrated on social reforms within modern democracies.

Solipsism

the view that only direct mental experience is certain, as things external to one's mind cannot be known.

Sophism

in Ancient Greece, the teaching of rhetoric and persuasion; in modern times, a deceptive argument not based on logic.

Spiritualism

a religious movement, prominent from the 1840s to the 1920s, found primarily in English-speaking countries. The movement's distinguishing feature is the belief that the spirits of the dead can be contacted by adepts. These spirits are believed to lie on a higher spiritual plane than humans, and are therefore capable of providing guidance in both worldly and spiritual matters.

Stoicism

a Hellenistic school with the principle that self-control, both emotional and physical, leads to an inner strength and character that enables one to harmoniously interact with the natural world. It is often contrasted with Epicureanism.

Structuralism

an approach or theory that studies underlying structural relationships between concepts.

- **Post-structuralism**

a varied reaction to structuralism that views the signifier and signified as inseparable, but not united.

Subjectivism

a doctrine that associates objects with subjective experience rather than independent existence.

Substantialism

the philosophy that there are sentient entities behind phenomena

Symbolism

applied use of any iconic representations that carry particular conventional meanings. "Symbolism" may refer to a way of choosing representative symbols abstractly rather than literally, allowing broader interpretation of their meaning than more literal concept-representations allow.

T

Taoism

a group of Chinese religious and philosophical traditions. Philosophical Taoism emphasizes various themes found in the *Daodejing* and *Zhuangzi* such as "nonaction" (*wu wei*), emptiness, detachment, receptiveness, spontaneity, the strength of softness, the relativism of human values, and the search for a long life. Religious Taoism is not clearly separated from philosophy, but incorporates a number of supernatural beliefs in gods, ghosts, ancestral spirits, and practices such as Taoist alchemy and qigong.

Teleologism

the supposition that there is design, purpose, directive principle, or finality in the works and processes of nature, and the philosophical study of that purpose. Teleology stands in contrast to philosophical naturalism, and both ask questions separate from the questions of science. While science investigates natural laws and phenomena, Philosophical naturalism and teleology investigate the existence or non-existence of an organizing principle behind those natural laws and phenomena. Philosophical naturalism asserts that there are no such principles. Teleology asserts that there are.

Theism

the view that there is one or more gods or goddesses.[24] More specifically, it may also mean the belief in God, a god, or gods, who is/are actively involved in maintaining the Universe. A theist can also take the position that he does not have sufficient evidence to "know" whether God or gods exist, although he believes it through faith.

● **Monotheism**

the belief in a single, universal, all-encompassing deity. Zoroastrianism and the Abrahamic religions are considered Monotheist.

● **Classical theism**

refers to traditional ideas of the monotheistic religions such as Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Classical theism holds that God is an absolute, eternal, all-knowing (omniscient), all-powerful (omnipotent), and perfect being. God is related to the world as its cause, but is unaffected by the world (immutable). He is transcendent over the world, which exists relative to him as a temporal effect.

● **Deism**

a form of monotheism in which it is believed that one god exists. However, a deist rejects the idea that this god intervenes in the world. Hence any notion of special revelation is impossible, and the nature of god can only be known through reason and observation from nature. A deist thus rejects the miraculous, and the claim to knowledge made for religious groups and texts.

● **Cosmotheism**

synonym for pantheism (see below).

● **Monistic theism**

the type of monotheism found in Hinduism. This type of theism is different from the Semitic religions as it encompasses panentheism, monism, and at the same time includes the concept of a personal God as a universal, omnipotent supreme being. The other types of monotheism are qualified monism, the school of Ramanuja or Vishishtadvaita, which admits that the universe is part of God, or Narayana, a type of panentheism, but there is a plurality of souls within this supreme Being and Dvaita, which differs in that it is dualistic, as God is separate and not panentheistic.

● **Pantheism**

the view that everything is of an all-encompassing immanent God; or that the universe, or nature, and God are equivalent. More detailed definitions tend to emphasize the idea that natural law, existence and/or the universe (the sum total of all that was, is, or shall be) is represented or personified in the theological principle of 'God'. The existence of a transcendent supreme extraneous to nature is denied. Depending on how this is understood, such a view may be presented as tantamount to atheism, deism or theism.

● **Pandeism**

a type of pantheism that combines the pantheistic belief of God being identical to the Universe with the idea from deism (above) that God is

revealed by rational examination and does not intervene in the Universe.

- **Panentheism**

the theological position that God is immanent within the Universe, but also transcends it. It is distinguished from pantheism, which holds that God is synonymous with the material universe. In panentheism, God is viewed as creator and/or animating force behind the universe, and the source of universal morality. The term is closely associated with the Logos of Greek philosophy in the works of Herakleitos, which pervades the cosmos and whereby all things were made.

- **Substance monotheism**

found e.g. in some indigenous African religions, holds that the many gods are different forms of a single underlying substance, and that this underlying substance is God. This view has some similarities to the Christian trinitarian view of three persons sharing one nature.

- **Nontheism**

the absence of belief in both the existence *and* non-existence of a deity (or deities, or other numinous phenomena). The word is often employed as a blanket term for all belief systems that are not theistic, including atheism (both strong and weak) and agnosticism, as well as certain Eastern religions like Confucianism, Taoism, and Zen Buddhism.

- **Polytheism**

belief in, or worship of, multiple gods or divinities. Most ancient religions were polytheistic, holding to pantheons of traditional deities, often accumulated over centuries of cultural interchange and experience. The belief in many gods does not contradict or preclude also believing in an all-powerful all-knowing supreme being.

- **Henotheism**

devotion to a single god while accepting the existence of other gods. Coined by Max Müller, according to whom it is "monotheism in principle and a polytheism in fact". Variations on the term have been *inclusive monotheism* and *monarchial polytheism*, designed to differentiate differing forms of the phenomenon.

- **Philosophical theism**

the belief that God exists (or must exist), independent of the teaching or revelation of any particular religion. Some philosophical theists are persuaded of God's existence by philosophical arguments, while others consider themselves to have a religious faith that need not be, or could not be, supported by rational argument.

Theological noncognitivism

the argument that religious language, and specifically words like "God" (capitalized), are not cognitively meaningful. It is cited as proof of the nonexistence of anything named "God", and therefore is a basis for atheism. There are two main arguments: Kai Nielsen used verifiability theory of meaning to conclude that religious language is meaningless because it is not verifiable, proving weak atheism. George H. Smith used an attribute-based approach to argue that the concept "god" has no meaningful attributes, only negatively defined or relational attributes, making it meaningless — leading to the conclusion that "god does not exist", thus proving strong atheism.

Totalitarianism

a typology employed by political scientists to denote modern regimes in which the state regulates nearly every aspect of public and private behavior. Totalitarian regimes mobilize entire populations in support of the state and a political ideology, and do not tolerate activities by individuals or groups such as labor unions, churches and political parties that are not directed toward the state's goals. They maintain themselves in power by means of secret police, propaganda disseminated through the state-controlled mass media, regulation and restriction of free discussion and criticism, and widespread use of terror tactics.

Transcendental idealism

the philosophy of Immanuel Kant and later Kantian and German Idealist philosophers; a view according to which human experience is not of things as they are in themselves, but of those things as they appear to human beings. It differs from standard (empirical) idealism in that it does not claim that the objects of human experience would be in any sense *within* the mind. The idea is that whenever humans experience something, they experience it as it is *for themselves*: the object is real as well as mind-independent, but is, in a sense, altered by people's cognition (by the categories and the forms of sensibility, space and time). Transcendental idealism denies that people could have knowledge of the thing in itself. A view that holds the opposite is called transcendental realism.

Transcendentalism

a group of new ideas in literature, religion, culture, and philosophy that advocates that there is an ideal spiritual state that 'transcends' the physical and empirical and is only realized through a knowledgeable intuitive awareness that is conditional upon the individual. The concept emerged in New England in the early-to mid-19th century. It is sometimes called "*American Transcendentalism*" to distinguish it from other uses of the word *transcendental*. It began as a protest against the general state of culture and society at the time, and in particular, the state of intellectualism at Harvard and the doctrine of the Unitarian church that was taught at Harvard Divinity School. The term *transcendentalism* sometimes serves as shorthand for "transcendental idealism". Another alternative meaning for *transcendentalism* is the classical philosophy that God transcends the manifest world. As John Scotus Erigena put it to Frankish king Charles the Bald in the year 840 A.D., "We do not know what God is. God himself doesn't know what He is because He is not anything. Literally God is not, because He transcends being."

Truth claim

a statement that is either true or false, and claimed to be true

U**Universalism**

synonym for moral universalism, as a compromise between moral relativism and moral absolutism.

Utilitarianism

theory of ethics that maintains an act is moral if and only if it maximizes welfare. It is a form of consequentialism and welfarism.

Utopia

the idea that paradise is achievable on earth.

V**Verificationism**

an epistemic theory of truth based on the idea that the mind engages in a certain kind of activity: "verifying" a proposition. The distinctive claim of verificationism is that the result of such verifications is, by definition, truth. That is, truth is reducible to this process of verification.

Vitalism

the doctrine that "**vital forces**" are active in living organisms, so that life cannot be explained solely by mechanism. That element is often referred to as the *vital spark* or *energy*, which some equate with the *soul*.

Z**Zen Buddhism**

A fusion of Mahayana Buddhism and Taoism, practiced chiefly in China and Japan. It places great importance on moment-by-moment awareness and 'seeing deeply into the nature of things' by direct experience. The name derives from the Sanskrit word *dhyana* referring to a particular meditative state.

Zoroastrianism

the religion and philosophy based on the teachings ascribed to the prophet Zoroaster (Zarathustra, Zartosht).

