

The lexicon of philosophy

Philosophy is the science that studies the fundamental aspects of the nature of existence. The task of philosophy is to provide man with a comprehensive view of life. This view serves as a base, a frame of reference, for all his actions, mental or physical, psychological or existential. This view tells him the nature of the universe with which he has to deal (**metaphysics**); the means by which he is to deal with it, i.e., the means of acquiring knowledge (**epistemology**); the standards by which he is to choose his goals and values, in regard to his own life and character (**ethics**)—and in regard to society (**politics**); the means of concretizing this view is given to him by esthetics.

Metaphysics: This branch explores fundamental questions about reality, including concepts like being, existence, and the universe.

Epistemology: This is the study of knowledge, asking questions about its nature, origin, and limits. How do we know what we know?

Ethics: This branch deals with moral principles, examining questions about right and wrong, virtue, and justice.

Logic: The study of reasoning, focusing on the principles of valid inference and demonstration.

Aesthetics: This field explores the nature of beauty, art, and taste, and the creation and appreciation of beauty.

Political Philosophy: It examines concepts like justice, authority, liberty, and the role of governments and citizens.

Existentialism: This philosophical movement explores the individual's experience in a seemingly indifferent or absurd universe, focusing on themes like freedom, choice, and the meaning of life.

Phenomenology: This approach seeks to explore and describe phenomena as individuals, emphasizing the subjective nature of perception and consciousness, experience them.

Pragmatism: This school of thought evaluates theories or beliefs based on their practical applications and successes, emphasizing the consequences of actions and the practical use of ideas.

Structuralism and Post-Structuralism: These are approaches in various fields of study that examine structures and systems, often questioning and deconstructing traditional assumptions and hierarchies.

Dualism: This concept pertains to the division of something conceptually into two opposed or contrasted aspects, such as the mind and body.

Utilitarianism: This ethical theory proposes that the best action is the one that maximizes utility, often defined as that which produces the greatest well-being of the greatest number of people.

Deontology: This branch of ethics focuses on the adherence to duty, rules, and obligations, rather than the consequences of actions.

Dialectic: This method of argument involves contradiction and its resolution, traditionally associated with thinkers like Hegel, who emphasized the process of thesis, antithesis, and synthesis.

Hermeneutics: This is the study of interpretation, especially of texts, including the Bible, legal documents, and literary works.