

# World Philosophy Basics

## World Philosophy Overview

<p><b>Philosophy</b></p> <p><i>History of Philosophy</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Philosophy</b> is the study of fundamental and intangible questions about life             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Explores abstract issues such as <b>existence</b>, <b>knowledge</b>, <b>values</b> &amp; <b>reasoning</b></li> <li>○ Interconnects with other fields of study, including <b>science</b> &amp; <b>religion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Science</b>: Started in philosophy, but later evolved into its own discipline</li> <li>▪ <b>Religion</b>: Integrated closely with philosophic thought</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Pursues <b>wisdom</b> through <b>reasoning</b> and <b>critical thinking</b> (In Greek: <i>philo</i> = love &amp; <i>sophia</i> = wisdom)</li> </ul> <p>(Note: <b>Philosophy</b> uses reasoning &amp; critical thinking, <b>Science</b> uses testing &amp; evidence, <b>Religion</b> uses belief &amp; faith)</p> </li> </ul>																																
<p><b>Core Branches of Philosophy</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Core Branches of Philosophy</b>: There are four core branches of philosophy             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Metaphysics</b>: The study of <b>existence</b> and <b>reality</b> (“the first philosophy”)</li> <li>○ <b>Epistemology</b>: The study of <b>knowledge</b> and its acquisition (“the theory of knowledge”)</li> <li>○ <b>Value Theory</b>: The study of <b>ethics</b> (morality), <b>aesthetics</b> {beauty}, and <b>politics</b> (justice)</li> <li>○ <b>Logic</b>: The study of <b>reasoning</b> and <b>argument</b> structure</li> </ul> </li> </ul>																																
<p><b>World Philosophy</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>World Philosophy</b> is the study of the philosophic traditions of different global cultures             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Compares perspectives to promote improved understanding and a balanced viewpoint</li> <li>○ Includes the study of philosophy from:                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Western Philosophy</b>: <b>Ancient Greek</b>, <b>Ancient Roman</b>, <b>European</b>, <b>American</b>, etc.</li> <li>▪ <b>Eastern Philosophy</b>: <b>Indian</b>, <b>Chinese</b>, <b>Japanese</b>, etc.</li> <li>▪ <b>Others</b>: <b>Middle Eastern</b>, <b>African</b>, <b>Indigenous</b>, etc.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>																																
<p><b>World Philosophy Comparison</b></p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">WORLD PHILOSOPHY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Western Philosophy</li> <li>Eastern Philosophy</li> <li>Middle Eastern Philosophy</li> <li>African Philosophy</li> <li>Indigenous Philosophy</li> <li>Other Philosophy</li> </ul>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>Existence</b> (Metaphysics)</th> <th><b>Knowledge</b> (Epistemology)</th> <th><b>Values</b> (Value Theory)</th> <th><b>Reasoning</b> (Logic)</th> </tr> <tr> <td><i>What is the nature of reality? Is existence linear or cyclical?</i></td> <td><i>What is knowledge? Are there absolute truths?</i></td> <td><i>What is right &amp; wrong? What is ethical, beautiful, legal?</i></td> <td><i>What is a valid argument? Is logic universal or contextual?</i></td> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Focuses on the nature of reality and being</td> <td>Based on evidence and critical thinking</td> <td>Emphasizes right &amp; wrong, duty, and universal truths</td> <td>Uses formal logic and scientific methods</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Understood as cyclical, interconnected &amp; dynamic</td> <td>Focuses on wisdom from intuition and meditation</td> <td>Centers on harmony with the universe</td> <td>Emphasizes balance and harmony over binary logic</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Highlights divine creation</td> <td>Blends rational inquiry with theology</td> <td>Guided by justice, charity, and divine law</td> <td>Balances logic with theological principles</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Connects with spiritual and ancestral realms</td> <td>Based on ancestral wisdom</td> <td>Emphasizes community and environmental harmony</td> <td>Rooted in practical communal experience</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Intertwines with nature, spirit, and land</td> <td>Focuses on the observation of nature</td> <td>Emphasizes community and environmental harmony</td> <td>Holistic, tradition-based, and nature-informed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Often linked to spiritual beliefs and community</td> <td>Is based on experience</td> <td>Emphasizes tradition and environmental harmony</td> <td>Practical and contextual</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<b>Existence</b> (Metaphysics)	<b>Knowledge</b> (Epistemology)	<b>Values</b> (Value Theory)	<b>Reasoning</b> (Logic)	<i>What is the nature of reality? Is existence linear or cyclical?</i>	<i>What is knowledge? Are there absolute truths?</i>	<i>What is right &amp; wrong? What is ethical, beautiful, legal?</i>	<i>What is a valid argument? Is logic universal or contextual?</i>	Focuses on the nature of reality and being	Based on evidence and critical thinking	Emphasizes right & wrong, duty, and universal truths	Uses formal logic and scientific methods	Understood as cyclical, interconnected & dynamic	Focuses on wisdom from intuition and meditation	Centers on harmony with the universe	Emphasizes balance and harmony over binary logic	Highlights divine creation	Blends rational inquiry with theology	Guided by justice, charity, and divine law	Balances logic with theological principles	Connects with spiritual and ancestral realms	Based on ancestral wisdom	Emphasizes community and environmental harmony	Rooted in practical communal experience	Intertwines with nature, spirit, and land	Focuses on the observation of nature	Emphasizes community and environmental harmony	Holistic, tradition-based, and nature-informed	Often linked to spiritual beliefs and community	Is based on experience	Emphasizes tradition and environmental harmony	Practical and contextual
<b>Existence</b> (Metaphysics)	<b>Knowledge</b> (Epistemology)	<b>Values</b> (Value Theory)	<b>Reasoning</b> (Logic)																														
<i>What is the nature of reality? Is existence linear or cyclical?</i>	<i>What is knowledge? Are there absolute truths?</i>	<i>What is right &amp; wrong? What is ethical, beautiful, legal?</i>	<i>What is a valid argument? Is logic universal or contextual?</i>																														
Focuses on the nature of reality and being	Based on evidence and critical thinking	Emphasizes right & wrong, duty, and universal truths	Uses formal logic and scientific methods																														
Understood as cyclical, interconnected & dynamic	Focuses on wisdom from intuition and meditation	Centers on harmony with the universe	Emphasizes balance and harmony over binary logic																														
Highlights divine creation	Blends rational inquiry with theology	Guided by justice, charity, and divine law	Balances logic with theological principles																														
Connects with spiritual and ancestral realms	Based on ancestral wisdom	Emphasizes community and environmental harmony	Rooted in practical communal experience																														
Intertwines with nature, spirit, and land	Focuses on the observation of nature	Emphasizes community and environmental harmony	Holistic, tradition-based, and nature-informed																														
Often linked to spiritual beliefs and community	Is based on experience	Emphasizes tradition and environmental harmony	Practical and contextual																														
<p><b>Video Overview of Philosophy</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Crash Course Philosophy #1</b> (10:34) – An overview of philosophy in about 10 minutes  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1A_CAKYt3GY&amp;list=PL8dPuualJxTNgK6MZucdYldNkMybYIHKR&amp;index=2">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1A_CAKYt3GY&amp;list=PL8dPuualJxTNgK6MZucdYldNkMybYIHKR&amp;index=2</a> </li> </ul>																																

## Famous Philosophic Quotes

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Peace comes from within. Do not seek it without.” – Buddha</li> <li>• “Pain is certain, suffering is optional.” – Buddha</li> <li>• “Respect yourself and others will respect you.” – Confucius</li> <li>• “It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop.” – Confucius</li> <li>• “A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.” – Laozi</li> <li>• “Nature does not hurry, yet everything is accomplished.” – Laozi</li> <li>• ‘Universal love is the way of the sage.’ – Mozi</li> <li>• “The unexamined life is not worth living.” – Socrates</li> <li>• “The only thing I know is that I know nothing.” – Socrates</li> <li>• “The beginning is the most important part of the work.” – Plato</li> <li>• “We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.” – Aristotle</li> <li>• “The more you know, the more you realize you don’t know.” – Aristotle</li> <li>• “Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all others.” – Cicero</li> <li>• ‘Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward is to see what you believe.’ – St. Augustine</li> <li>• “The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only one page.” – St. Augustine</li> <li>• “The purpose of philosophy is to attain truth.” – Al-Farabi</li> <li>• “The world has men with wit and no religion and men with religion and no wit.” – Avicenna</li> <li>• “With faith, no explanation is necessary. Without faith, no explanation is possible.” – Aquinas</li> <li>• “Whoever desires constant success must change his conduct with the times.” – Machiavelli</li> <li>• “The ends justify the means.” – Machiavelli</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Knowledge is power.” = Francis Bacon</li> <li>• “Hell is truth seen too late.” – Thomas Hobbes</li> <li>• “Leisure is the mother of philosophy.” – Thomas Hobbes</li> <li>• “Cogito, ergo sum.” (I think, therefore I am) – René Descartes</li> <li>• “Where there is no law, there is no freedom.” – John Locke</li> <li>• “Act according to that maxim that it should become a universal law.” – Immanuel Kant</li> <li>• “Happiness is not an ideal of reason but of imagination.” – Immanuel Kant</li> <li>• “Happiness of the greatest number is the foundation of morals &amp; legislation.” – J. Bentham</li> <li>• “We learn from history that we do not learn from history.” – G.W.F. Hegel</li> <li>• “It is better to be a human being dissatisfied than a pig satisfied.” – John Stuart Mill</li> <li>• “Genius can only breathe freely in an atmosphere of freedom.” – John Stuart Mill</li> <li>• “Workers of the world unite; you have nothing to lose but your chains.” – Karl Marx</li> <li>• “From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs.” – Karl Marx</li> <li>• “That which does not kill us makes us stronger.” – Friedrich Nietzsche</li> <li>• “God is dead.” – Friedrich Nietzsche</li> <li>• “The Holy Land is everywhere.” – Black Elk</li> <li>• “Be the change that you wish to see in the world.” – Ghandi</li> <li>• “Man is nothing else but what he makes of himself.” – Jean-Paul Sartre</li> <li>• “Hell is other people.” – Jean-Paul Sartre</li> <li>• “I am because we are, and since we are, therefore I am.” – John Mbiti</li> </ul>
---	---

Famous World Philosophers						
Famous World Philosophers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Philosophers</b> explore fundamental &amp; intangible questions about <b>existence, knowledge, values &amp; reasoning</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>list of philosophers</b> includes famous world philosophers who contributed in the areas below</li> </ul> </li> </ul>					
	LIFETIME & LEGACY	EXISTENCE (Metaphysics)	KNOWLEDGE (Epistemology)	VALUES (Value Theory)	REASONING (Logic)	
<b>Buddha</b> "The Awakened One"  <b>Confucius</b> "Kōngzǐ"  <b>Lao Tzu</b> "Laozi"  <b>Mò Dí</b> "Mozi"	ANCIENT EASTERN	c. 563–483 BCE Founded <b>Buddhism</b> Focused on ending suffering	<b>Non-Self (Anatta)</b> <b>Impermanence (Anicca)</b> <b>Dependent Origination (Pratītyasamutpāda)</b>	Four Noble Truths Meditation & Mindfulness	Noble Eightfold Path Five Precepts Moral Causation ( <i>Karma</i> )	Middle Way <i>Kesamutti Sutta</i>
		551–479 BCE Inspired <b>Confucianism</b> Focused on <b>social harmony</b>	The Way ( <i>Tao</i> )	Self-Cultivation	Five Virtues Filial Piety ( <i>Xiao</i> )	Moral Reasoning Doctrine of the Mean
		c. 500 BCE Inspired <b>Taoism</b> Focused on <b>harmony with nature</b>	The Way ( <i>Tao</i> ) <b>Passive &amp; Active (Yin &amp; Yang)</b>	Intuition Harmony with Nature Non-Interference	Three Treasures Non-Action ( <i>Wu Wei</i> )	Paradoxes
		c. 470–391 BCE Inspired <b>Mohism</b> Focused on <b>peace &amp; utilitarianism</b>	Universal Love Heaven's Will	Empiricism Pragmatism	Utilitarian Ethics Logical Pacifism	Practical Reason Argumentation Theory
<b>Socrates</b> "Gadfly"  <b>"Plato"</b> Aristocles  <b>Aristotle</b> "The First Master"  <b>"Cicero"</b> Marcus Tullius Cicero	ANCIENT WESTERN	c. 470–399 BCE The Father of <b>Western Philosophy</b>	Reality Existence	Skepticism Socratic Method	Virtue from Knowledge Moral Universalism	Socratic Dialectic Refutation Technique
		c. 427–348 BCE Student of Socrates who advanced <b>Western Philosophy</b>	<b>Theory of Forms</b> <b>Allegory of the Cave</b> <b>Theory of the Soul</b>	Rationalism Innatism	Cardinal Virtues Philosopher-King	Dialogues
		384–322 BCE Student of Plato who advanced <b>Western Philosophy</b>	<b>Substance Theory</b> <b>Four Causes</b> <b>Unmoved Mover</b>	Empiricism	Virtue Ethics The Golden Mean	Aristotelian Logic Syllogism
		106–43 BCE Merged <b>Greek Philosophy</b> with <b>Roman Philosophy</b>	Natural Law Stoicism	Skepticism Probabilism	Humanity ( <i>Humanitas</i> ) Final Good ( <i>Summum Bonum</i> )	Rhetoric Dialectic
<b>Augustine of Hippo</b> "St. Augustine"  <b>Al-Farabi</b> "The Second Master"  <b>"Avicenna"</b> Ibn Sina  <b>Thomas Aquinas</b> "St. Thomas Aquinas"	MIDIEVAL	354–430 Merged <b>Greek Philosophy</b> with <b>Christian Theology</b>	<b>Concept of God</b> <b>Predestination</b> <b>Dualism in Cosmology</b>	Divine Illumination Faith and Reason	<b>Christian Ethics</b> <b>Divine Law</b> <b>Seven Virtues</b>	Aristotelian Logic Socratic Dialectic
		872–950 Merged <b>Greek Philosophy</b> with <b>Islamic Philosophy</b>	<b>Emanationism</b>	Unity of Intellect Faith and Reason	Virtuous City Ethics & Politics	Aristotelian Logic Language & Logic
		980–1037 Merged <b>Greek Philosophy</b> with <b>Islamic Theology</b>	<b>Proof of the Truthful Essence &amp; Existence</b>	Unity of Intellect Universality Active Intellect	Floating Man	Avicennian Logic Proofs
		1225–1274 Advanced <b>Christian Theology</b> and <b>Medieval Scholasticism</b>	<b>Five Ways</b> <b>Pure Actuality (Actus Purus)</b>	Faith and Reason Cognition	Catholic Theology Natural Law Virtue Ethics	Medieval Scholasticism
<b>"Machiavelli"</b> Niccolò Machiavelli  <b>Francis Bacon</b>  <b>Thomas Hobbes</b>  <b>René Descartes</b>	EARLY MODERN	1469–1527 The Father of <b>Political Realism</b>	<b>Political Realism</b>	Empirical Observation Pragmatism	<b>Political Ethics</b> <b>Virtue (Virtù)</b>	Strategic Reasoning Political Causality
		1561–1626 The Father of the <b>Scientific Method</b>	<b>Natural Philosophy</b>	Scientific Method Empiricism	Applied Science: Advancement of Learning	Baconian Method Inductive Reasoning
		1588–1679 The Father of early modern <b>Political Philosophy</b>	<b>Materialism</b> <b>State of Nature</b>	Human Nature Empiricism	Social Contract Morality & Politics	Mechanism Deductive Reasoning
		1596–1650 The Father of early <b>Modern Philosophy</b>	I think therefore I am ( <i>Cogito, ergo sum</i> ) <b>Mind-Body Dualism</b>	Cartesian Doubt Innatism <b>Causal Adequacy Principle</b>	Free Will & Reason Religion & Science	Scientific Method Deductive Reasoning
<b>John Locke</b>  <b>Jean-Jacques Rousseau</b>  <b>Immanuel Kant</b>  <b>Jeremy Bentham</b>	MODERN	1632–1704 The Father of <b>Classical Liberalism</b>	<b>Blank Slate (Tabula Rasa)</b>	Empiricism Primary & Secondary Qualities	<b>Natural Rights</b> <b>Limited Government</b> <b>Consent of the Governed</b>	Social Contract Religious Tolerance
		1712 – 1778 A Key Leader in <b>Civic Virtue</b>	<b>Natural Human Goodness</b> <b>Critique of Inequality</b>	General Will Child-Centered Education	Social Contract Civic Religion	Direct Democracy Popular Sovereignty
		1724–1804 The Father of <b>Deontology</b>	<b>Transcendental idealism (Noumenon/Phenomenon)</b>	Limits of Knowledge <i>A Priori vs. A Posteriori</i>	Kantian Ethics Categorical Imperative Kingdom of Ends	Critical Philosophy Moral Reasoning
		1748–1832 The Father of modern <b>Utilitarianism</b>	<b>Psychological Hedonism</b> <b>Utility (Felicific) Calculus</b>	Legal Positivism Theory of Fictions	Principle of Utility Equal Consideration <b>Consequentialism</b>	Rational Analysis
<b>G.W.F. Hegel</b>  <b>John Stuart Mill</b>  <b>Karl Marx</b>  <b>Friedrich Nietzsche</b>	LATE MODERN	1770–1831 Defined the <b>Dialectic Method</b> & influenced <b>Marxism</b>	<b>Absolute Idealism</b> <b>Unity of Opposites</b>	<b>Phenomenology of Spirit</b> Historical Context	<b>Ethical Life (Sittlichkeit):</b> Lord–Bondsman Dialectic	Hegelian Dialectic Science of Logic
		1806–1873 Advanced <b>Classical Liberalism</b> & modern <b>Utilitarianism</b>	Flourishing	Empiricism	Utilitarianism Harm Principle Moral Progress	Justice and Utility Practical Philosophy
		1818–1883 Founded <b>Marxism</b> as a class struggle vs. capitalism	<b>Historical Materialism</b> <b>Class Struggle</b>	<b>Dialectical Materialism</b> Praxis	Exploitation of Labor Emancipation	Critique of Capitalism Revolutionary Socialism
		1844–1900 Challenged <b>Traditional Morality</b> and <b>Religion</b>	<b>Eternal Recurrence</b> <b>Love of Fate (Amor Fatī)</b>	<b>Perspectivism</b> <b>Critique of Rationalism</b>	<b>Nihilism - Übermensch</b> <b>Master-Slave Morality</b> <b>Nietzschean Affirmation</b>	Genealogy of Morality Aphorisms
<b>Black Elk</b>  <b>Mohandas Gandhi</b> "Mahatma"  <b>Jean-Paul Sartre</b>  <b>John Mbiti</b>	CONTEMPORARY	1863–1950 Lakota leader; Focused on <b>Harmony with Nature</b>	<b>Sacred Hoop</b> Visionary	Oral Tradition	<b>Environmental Stewardship</b> Animism and Kinship	Ritual and Symbolism Visionary Guidance
		1869–1948 Leader in <b>Nonviolent Resistance</b>	<b>Truth (Satya)</b> Simple Living	Experiential Learning Religious Pluralism	<b>Nonviolence (Ahimsa)</b> <b>Self-Governance (Swaraj)</b>	Civil Disobedience Constructive Program:
		1905–1980 Advanced <b>Existentialism</b> , Focused on <b>Individual Morality</b>	<b>Existence Precedes Essence</b> <b>Freedom Causes Anguish</b>	<b>Phenomenology</b> Subjectivity	Authenticity Bad Faith	Critique of Dialectical Reason Practical Philosophy
		1931–2019 Pioneer of <b>African Philosophy</b> and <b>African Theology</b>	<b>Wheel of Time</b> <b>African Communalism</b>	Oral Tradition Faith & Culture	<b>Ubuntu Philosophy</b> Sacredness of Life	Comparative Religion Inclusivism

## Famous World Philosophers (Detailed)

## Ancient Eastern Philosophers

**Buddha**

Siddhartha Gautama



"Peace comes from within.  
Do not seek it without."

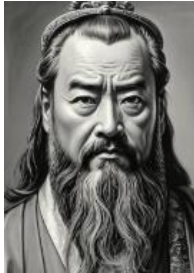
"Pain is certain,  
suffering is optional."

"What you think you become."

- **Buddha** (c. 563 BCE – 480 BCE) was an [philosopher](#) and [religious figurehead](#) from [ancient India](#)
  - **Legacy:**
    - **Buddhism:** Founded Buddhism as a path to end suffering and attain enlightenment (*nirvana*)
    - **Works:** Buddha's teachings were preserved in scriptures known as the *Tripitaka*
  - **Philosophy:**
    - EXISTENCE ▪ **Non-Self (Anatta):** Taught that there is no permanent self or soul
    - **Impermanence (Anicca):** Believed that all things are transient
    - **Dependent Origination (Pratītyasamutpāda):** Saw all existence as interdependent
    - KNOWLEDGE ▪ **Four Noble Truths:** Provided a framework to understand and end suffering
    - **Meditation & Mindfulness:** Promoted meditation to understand reality and the mind
    - VALUES ▪ **Noble Eightfold Path:** Offered a guide for ethical and mental discipline to reduce suffering
    - **Five Precepts:** Ethical guidelines: no killing, stealing, sexual misconduct, lying, intoxication
    - **Moral Causation (Karma):** Taught that morality shapes future existence and **re-birth (samsara)**
    - REASONING ▪ **Middle Way:** Advocated a balanced, practical path between extreme views
    - **Kesamutti Sutta:** A Buddhist scripture that encouraged critical thinking and self-evaluation

**Confucius**

Kǒngzǐ

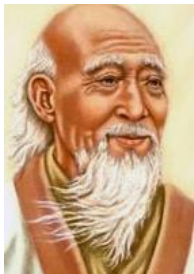


"Respect yourself and others  
will respect you."

- **Confucius** (551 BCE – 479 BCE) was a [philosopher](#) and [religious figurehead](#) from [ancient China](#)
  - **Legacy:**
    - **Confucianism:** Inspired Confucianism and shaped [social values](#) & [social structure](#) in [China/Asia](#)
    - **Works:** Helped author the *Five Classics*, including the *Classic of Change (I Ching)*
  - **Philosophy:**
    - EXISTENCE ▪ **The Way (Tao):** Described the Tao as a [moral force](#) that guides [social order](#)
    - KNOWLEDGE ▪ **Self-Cultivation:** Stressed the importance of lifelong self-improvement and personal growth
    - VALUES ▪ **Five Virtues:** Compassion (*Ren*); Righteousness (*Yi*); Propriety (*Li*); Wisdom (*Zhi*); Integrity (*Xin*)
    - **Filial Piety (Xiao):** Emphasized respect, obedience, and care for one's parents and ancestors
    - REASONING ▪ **Doctrine of the Mean (Zhongyong):** Advocated balance and moderation in thought and action
    - **Moral Reasoning:** Emphasized reasoning based on ethics, specifically *Ren* and *Li*

**Lao Tzu**

Laozi



"A journey of a thousand miles  
begins with a single step."

"When I let go of what I am, I  
become what I might be."

- **Lao Tzu** (c. 500 BCE) was a [philosopher](#) and [religious figurehead](#) from [ancient China](#)
  - **Legacy:**
    - **Taoism:** Inspired Taoism and heavily influenced [spiritual values](#) & [aesthetics](#) in [China/Asia](#)
    - **Works:** Credited as author of *Tao Te Ching*, which influenced Chinese thought, religion & art
  - **Philosophy:**
    - EXISTENCE ▪ **The Way (Tao):** Described the Tao as a [spiritual force](#) that ensures [harmony in the universe](#)
    - **Passive & Active (Yin & Yang):** Emphasized opposing but complementary forces in nature
    - KNOWLEDGE ▪ **Intuition:** Valued intuition and understanding the Tao over analytical reasoning
    - **Harmony with Nature:** Emphasized modifying human behavior to align with the natural order
    - VALUES ▪ **Three Treasures:** Established basic virtues in Taoism as [compassion](#), [frugality](#), and [humility](#)
    - **Non-Action (Wu Wei):** Urged effortless action and alignment with nature
    - **Non-Interference:** Promoted hands-off governance, allowing natural order to prevail
    - REASONING ▪ **Paradoxes:** Used paradoxes to convey that truth often transcends ordinary logic

**Mò Dí**

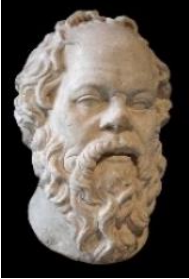
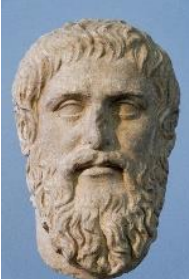
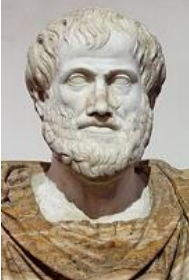

Mozi



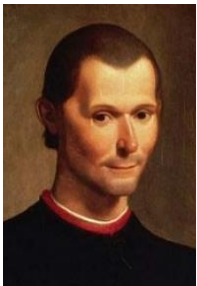

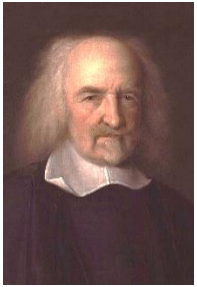

"Universal love is the way of  
the sage."

"Partiality is the root of all  
disorder."


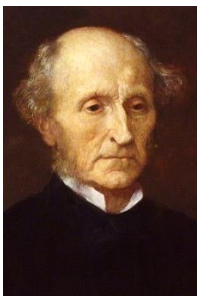
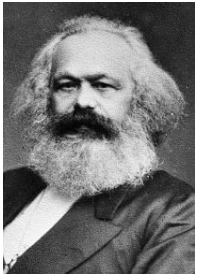
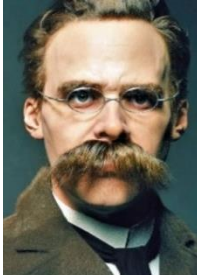
- **Mò Dí** (c. 470 BCE – 391 BCE) was a [philosopher](#) and [religious figurehead](#) from [ancient China](#)
  - **Legacy:**
    - **Mohism:** Inspired Mohism with focus on [introspection](#), [self-reflection](#) & [authenticity](#) over [ritual](#)
    - **Mohist Canon:** Documented the Mohist ideals of impartiality, meritocracy & economic growth
  - **Philosophy:**
    - EXISTENCE ▪ **Universal Love:** Believed in impartial care, urging equal love for all as a moral obligation
    - **Heaven's Will (Tian Zhi):** Claimed that heaven wants humans to live ethically & harmoniously
    - KNOWLEDGE ▪ **Empirical Evidence:** Valued practical knowledge and experience over speculation
    - **Pragmatism:** Stressed the importance of testing ideas in real-world application
    - VALUES ▪ **Utilitarian Ethics:** Supported actions for the greatest collective good
    - **Logical Pacifism:** Emphasized the logic of non-violence and strongly opposed offensive wars
    - REASONING ▪ **Practical Reason:** Emphasized clarity in argument and reason for solving social issues
    - **Argumentation Theory:** Used systematic debate as a foundation for logic

Ancient Western Philosophers	
<p><b>Socrates</b></p>  <p>"The only thing I know is that I know nothing."                      "The unexamined life is not worth living"                      "To find yourself, think for yourself."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Socrates</b> (470 BCE – 399 BCE) was a <a href="#">philosopher</a> from <a href="#">ancient Greece</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Legacy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Western Philosophy</i>: Laid the foundation for philosophy about <a href="#">existence</a>, <a href="#">knowledge</a> &amp; <a href="#">ethics</a></li> <li>▪ <i>Socratic Questioning</i>: Claimed he knew nothing and questioned everything to seek the <a href="#">truth</a></li> <li>▪ <i>Critique of Democracy</i>: Questioned if people had enough knowledge for democracy's success</li> <li>▪ <i>Trial of Socrates</i>: Accepted an unfair death sentence rather than abandon his principles</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Philosophy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EXISTENCE ▪ <i>Existence</i>: Advocated for self-reflection: "The unexamined life is not worth living"</li> <li>▪ <i>Reality</i>: Explored the nature of reality, influencing Plato's ideas on <a href="#">Forms</a></li> <li>KNOWLEDGE ▪ <i>Socratic Method</i>: Used a method of probing questions to stimulate critical thinking</li> <li>VALUES ▪ <i>Virtue from Knowledge</i>: Claimed that knowledge enables virtuous actions</li> <li>▪ <i>Moral Universalism</i>: Sought <a href="#">objective truths</a> about right and wrong vs. moral <a href="#">relativism</a></li> <li>REASONING ▪ <i>Socratic Dialectic</i>: Engaged in <a href="#">dialogue</a> to arrive at the <a href="#">truth</a> through <a href="#">rational argument</a></li> <li>▪ <i>Refutation Technique</i>: Focused on identifying contradictions to refine understanding</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Plato</b> Aristocles</p>  <p>"The beginning is the most important part of the work."                      "Courage is knowing what not to fear."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Plato</b> (427 BCE – 348 BCE) was a <a href="#">philosopher</a> from <a href="#">ancient Greece</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Legacy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Platonism</i>: Pioneered philosophic thinking and ideas about <a href="#">existence</a>, <a href="#">knowledge</a> &amp; <a href="#">ethics</a></li> <li>▪ <i>Works</i>: Wrote most of the <i>Socratic Dialogues</i>, including: <i>Republic</i>, <i>Apology</i> and <i>Phaedo</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Philosophy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EXISTENCE ▪ <i>Theory of Forms</i>: Proposed the world is a shadow of perfect, unchanging <a href="#">Forms</a> (<a href="#">Idealism</a>)</li> <li>▪ <i>Allegory of the Cave</i>: Felt that people can mistake existence like shadows in a cave</li> <li>▪ <i>Theory of the Soul</i>: Suggested the soul is eternal; it exists before birth &amp; continues after death</li> <li>KNOWLEDGE ▪ <i>Rationalism</i>: Emphasized reason over sensory perception as the primary source of knowledge</li> <li>▪ <i>Innatism</i>: Felt that knowledge is recollection of <a href="#">Forms</a> from a prior existence</li> <li>VALUES ▪ <i>Cardinal Virtues</i>: Defined four primary virtues: <a href="#">prudence</a>, <a href="#">justice</a>, <a href="#">fortitude</a> &amp; <a href="#">temperance</a></li> <li>▪ <i>Philosopher King</i>: Argued that the ideal state required a ruler with philosophic credentials</li> <li>REASONING ▪ <i>Dialogues</i>: Wrote texts that employ the <i>Socratic Dialectic</i> to explore philosophic teachings</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Aristotle</b></p>  <p>"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit."                      "Happiness depends upon ourselves."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Aristotle</b> (384 BCE – 322 BCE) was a <a href="#">philosopher</a> and <a href="#">polymath</a> from <a href="#">ancient Greece</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Legacy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Aristotelianism</i>: Shaped Western &amp; Middle Eastern Philosophy with foundational principles</li> <li>▪ <i>Works</i>: Wrote many philosophic texts, including: <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> and <i>Organon</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Philosophy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EXISTENCE ▪ <i>Substance Theory</i>: Claimed substances are the fundamental entities in reality</li> <li>▪ <i>Four Causes</i>: Used 4 categories of questions to explain why something exists or changes</li> <li>▪ <i>Unmoved Mover</i>: Theorized an immortal, unchanging being is responsible for world</li> <li>KNOWLEDGE ▪ <i>Empiricism</i>: Emphasized observation and experience as the basis for knowledge</li> <li>VALUES ▪ <i>Aristotelian Ethics</i>: Formalized <a href="#">virtue ethics</a> as a means to reach the highest good (<i>eudaimonia</i>)</li> <li>▪ <i>Golden Mean</i>: Emphasized <a href="#">moral virtue</a> lies between extremes of deficiency and excess</li> <li>REASONING ▪ <i>Aristotelian Logic</i>: Founded the first system of <a href="#">logic</a>, with formal reasoning and terminology</li> <li>▪ <i>Syllogism</i>: Developed an argument that consists of 2+ <a href="#">premises</a> and 1 <a href="#">conclusion</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Cicero</b> Marcus Tullius Cicero</p>  <p>"The higher we are placed, the more humbly we should walk."                      "The welfare of the people is the highest law."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cicero</b> (106 BCE – 43 BCE) was a <a href="#">philosopher</a> and <a href="#">statesman</a> from the <a href="#">Roman Republic</a> (<a href="#">Italy</a>)             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Legacy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Ciceronianism</i>: Merged Greek &amp; Roman philosophy, influencing <a href="#">politics</a>, <a href="#">ethics</a>, <a href="#">law</a> &amp; <a href="#">rhetoric</a></li> <li>▪ <i>Roman Consul</i>: Led the <a href="#">Roman Republic</a> and gained renown for exceptional oratory skills</li> <li>▪ <i>Works</i>: Wrote philosophic texts including <i>On the Republic</i>, <i>On the Laws</i> and <i>Orator</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Philosophy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EXISTENCE ▪ <i>Natural Law</i>: Argued for laws derived from nature and universal moral principles</li> <li>▪ <i>Stoicism</i>: Emphasized the four <a href="#">cardinal virtues</a> of <a href="#">Plato</a> for the highest good (<i>eudaimonia</i>)</li> <li>KNOWLEDGE ▪ <i>Skepticism</i>: Advocated for open-minded inquiry, favoring <a href="#">academic skepticism</a> over certainty</li> <li>▪ <i>Probabilism</i>: Held that some beliefs are more plausible than others and should guide action</li> <li>VALUES ▪ <i>Humanitas</i>: Stressed compassion, justice, and moral duty toward others in society</li> <li>▪ <i>Ultimate Good (Summum Bonum)</i>: Focused on a life of virtue in accordance with reason</li> <li>REASONING ▪ <i>Rhetoric &amp; Dialectic</i>: Mastered persuasion and debate, prioritizing them over strict logic</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>


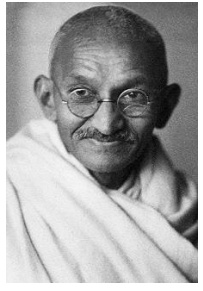

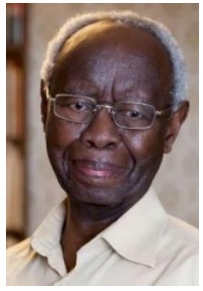
Medieval Philosophers	
<p><b>Augustine of Hippo</b> Saint Augustine</p>  <p>"Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe." "The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only one page"</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Augustine of Hippo</b> (354–430 CE) was a <b>philosopher</b> and <b>theologian</b> from the <b>Roman Empire</b> (<b>Algeria</b>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Legacy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Christian Philosopher:</b> Integrated <b>Christianity</b> with <b>ancient Greek philosophy</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Works:</b> Key writings include <i>The City of God</i>, <i>On Christian Doctrine</i> and <i>Confessions</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Philosophy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EXISTENCE ▪ <b>Concept of God:</b> Described <b>God</b> as an eternal, unchanging and timeless source of existence</li> <li>▪ <b>Predestination:</b> Argued that all events are willed by <b>God</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Dualism in Cosmology:</b> Emphasized the distinction between the material and spiritual realms</li> <li>KNOWLEDGE ▪ <b>Divine Illumination:</b> Claimed human thought needs to be aided by <b>divine grace</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Faith and Reason:</b> Argued that faith initiates knowledge, while reason deepens knowledge</li> <li>VALUES ▪ <b>Original Sin:</b> Helped develop the idea of inherited sinfulness and the need for divine grace</li> <li>▪ <b>Seven Virtues:</b> Emphasized Plato's <b>cardinal virtues</b> (<b>prudence, justice, fortitude, temperance</b>) and added the three <b>theological virtues</b> (<b>faith, hope, charity</b>)</li> <li>REASONING ▪ <b>Aristotelian Logic:</b> Applied classical logic in theological arguments</li> <li>▪ <b>Socratic Dialectic:</b> Used dialectical reasoning to explore and defend Christian doctrines</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Al-Farabi</b> Alpharabius Abu Nasr Muhammad al-Farabi</p>  <p>"The purpose of philosophy is to attain truth."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Al-Farabi</b> (872–950 CE) was a <b>philosopher</b> and <b>musician</b> from <b>Central Asia</b> and <b>Syria</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Legacy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Islamic Philosopher:</b> Shaped the <b>Islamic Golden Age</b> as "The Second Teacher" after Aristotle</li> <li>▪ <b>Works:</b> Authored <i>The Virtuous City</i>, a key work on proper governance in a moral society</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Philosophy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EXISTENCE ▪ <b>Emanationism:</b> Taught that existence flows from the <b>First Cause (God)</b> in a <b>hierarchical order</b></li> <li>KNOWLEDGE ▪ <b>Faith and Reason:</b> Reconciled reason and faith as complementary paths to truth</li> <li>VALUES ▪ <b>Virtuous City:</b> Advocated a just society ruled by philosopher-kings</li> <li>▪ <b>Ethics &amp; Politics:</b> Viewed morality and politics as inseparable and interdependent</li> <li>REASONING ▪ <b>Aristotelian Logic:</b> Expanded Aristotle's work, classifying logic as demonstrative (science), dialectic (debate), rhetorical (persuasion) and poetic (imagination)</li> <li>▪ <b>Language &amp; Logic:</b> Emphasized precise language as essential for clear reasoning</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Avicenna</b> Ibn Sina</p>  <p>"The world is divided into men with wit and no religion and men with religion and no wit."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Avicenna</b> (980 – 1037) was a <b>philosopher, physician</b> and <b>polymath</b> from modern-day <b>Uzbekistan</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Legacy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Avicennism:</b> Merged <b>ancient Greek philosophy</b> with <b>Islamic Theology</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Works:</b> Wrote the <i>Proof of Prophecies</i>, <i>Proof of the Truthful</i> and <i>The Book of Healing</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Philosophy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EXISTENCE ▪ <b>Essence &amp; Existence:</b> Distinguished between <b>essence</b> (what a thing is) and <b>existence</b> (that it is)</li> <li>▪ <b>Proof of the Truthful:</b> Asserted that <b>God</b> is a necessary being with unified <b>essence &amp; existence</b></li> <li>KNOWLEDGE ▪ <b>Unity of Intellect:</b> Held that the human intellect can unite with God to attain real knowledge</li> <li>▪ <b>Universality:</b> Believed universal truths exist outside the human mind in the <b>active intellect</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Active Intellect:</b> Argued the universal active intellect illuminates the human <b>passive intellect</b></li> <li>VALUES ▪ <b>Floating Man:</b> Outlined a thought experiment to prove the existence of the <b>soul</b></li> <li>REASONING ▪ <b>Avicennian Logic:</b> Expanded Aristotelian syllogistics with <b>modal logic, induction, and definitions</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Proofs:</b> Classified logical proofs as demonstrative, dialectical, rhetorical, and poetic</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Thomas Aquinas</b> Saint Thomas Aquinas</p>  <p>"With faith, no explanation is necessary. Without faith, no explanation is possible." "The things that we love tell us what we are."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Thomas Aquinas</b> (1225 – 1274) was a <b>philosopher</b> and <b>Dominican priest</b> from what is now <b>Italy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Legacy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Thomism:</b> A medieval <b>Christian theologian</b> who merged <b>faith &amp; reason</b> into <b>Scholasticism</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Works:</b> Wrote <i>Summa Theologica</i>, a text that systematically applied logic to <b>Christian theology</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Philosophy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EXISTENCE ▪ <b>Five Ways:</b> Proposed five logical proofs for <b>God's</b> existence using observation and reason</li> <li>▪ <b>Pure Actuality (Actus Purus):</b> Defined <b>God</b> as the absolute perfection of essence &amp; existence</li> <li>KNOWLEDGE ▪ <b>Faith and Reason:</b> Refined the <b>Scholastic method</b> to integrate rational inquiry with theology</li> <li>▪ <b>Cognition:</b> Argued that all knowledge originates in sensory experience, refined by intellect</li> <li>VALUES ▪ <b>Catholic Theology:</b> Defined key doctrines on <b>divine simplicity, omnipotence, and grace</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Natural Law:</b> Advocated a moral order inherent in human nature, discoverable through reason</li> <li>▪ <b>Virtue Ethics:</b> Stressed virtue and alignment with <b>God's will</b> as the path to true happiness</li> <li>REASONING ▪ <b>Medieval Scholasticism:</b> Unified Aristotelian logic with Christian theology</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Early Modern Philosophers (Renaissance)	
<p><b>Machiavelli</b> Niccolò Machiavelli</p>  <p>"The ends justify means" "Whosoever desires constant success must change his conduct with the times."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Machiavelli</b> (1469 – 1527) was a <a href="#">political philosopher</a> and <a href="#">diplomat</a> from the <a href="#">Republic of Florence</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Legacy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Political Philosophy:</b> Promoted <a href="#">political realism</a>, emphasizing practicality over morality</li> <li>▪ <b>Republicanism:</b> Favored a strong, participatory republic over hereditary rule</li> <li>▪ <b>Works:</b> Wrote <i>The Prince</i>, a guide for rulers on power and statecraft</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Philosophy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EXISTENCE ▪ <b>Political Realism:</b> Focused on the realities of power rather than abstract or metaphysical issues</li> <li>KNOWLEDGE ▪ <b>Empirical Observation:</b> Derived political theories from historical examples and real events</li> <li>▪ <b>Pragmatism:</b> Valued knowledge that leads to effective action over theory</li> <li>VALUES ▪ <b>Political Necessity:</b> Argued that rulers may need to act immorally to maintain stability &amp; power</li> <li>▪ <b>Virtue (Virtù):</b> Emphasized skill and strength in shaping destiny and responding to fortune</li> <li>REASONING ▪ <b>Strategic Reasoning:</b> Advocated for flexible, adaptive thinking in governance and leadership</li> <li>▪ <b>Political Causality:</b> Emphasized understanding consequences in political decision-making</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Francis Bacon</b></p>  <p>"Knowledge is power." "Revenge is a kind of wild justice."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Francis Bacon</b> (1561 – 1626) was a <a href="#">philosopher</a> and <a href="#">statesman</a> from <a href="#">England</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Legacy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Political Leader:</b> Served as Lord Chancellor of England, involved in legal and political reform</li> <li>▪ <b>Works:</b> Wrote key texts, including <i>Novum Organum</i> and <i>The Advancement of Learning</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Philosophy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EXISTENCE ▪ <b>Natural Philosophy:</b> Sought to understand nature's processes, preceding modern science</li> <li>KNOWLEDGE ▪ <b>Scientific Method:</b> Pioneered the empirical method, contributing to modern science</li> <li>▪ <b>Empiricism:</b> Emphasized the importance of direct observation and controlled experiments</li> <li>VALUES ▪ <b>Applied Science:</b> Argued that knowledge should improve humanity and control nature</li> <li>▪ <b>Advancement of Learning:</b> Rejected outdated ideas to advance intellectual progress</li> <li>REASONING ▪ <b>Baconian Method:</b> Advocated systematic observation and <a href="#">inductive reasoning</a> to derive general principles from specific observations</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Thomas Hobbes</b></p>  <p>"Hell is truth seen too late." "The life of man [is] solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short." "Liberty is the silence of the law."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Thomas Hobbes</b> (1588 – 1679) was a <a href="#">political philosopher</a> from <a href="#">England</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Legacy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Political Philosophy:</b> Recognized as a foundational thinking in early modern political theory</li> <li>▪ <b>Works:</b> Authored <i>Leviathan</i>, a political text exploring the <a href="#">state of nature</a> and <a href="#">social contract</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Philosophy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EXISTENCE ▪ <b>Materialism:</b> Argued that matter is the fundamental substance from which all things arise</li> <li>▪ <b>State of Nature:</b> Described a pre-political state marked by constant conflict and insecurity</li> <li>KNOWLEDGE ▪ <b>Human Nature:</b> Viewed humans as fundamentally self-interested and driven by fear</li> <li>▪ <b>Empiricism:</b> Asserted that all knowledge originates in sensory experience</li> <li>VALUES ▪ <b>Social Contract:</b> Proposed that people surrender freedoms for security under a sovereign</li> <li>▪ <b>Morality &amp; Politics:</b> Claimed that ethics emerge from political necessity rather than divine law</li> <li>REASONING ▪ <b>Mechanism:</b> Compared society to a mechanical system governed by predictable laws</li> <li>▪ <b>Deductive Reasoning:</b> Applied logic to derive political conclusions from human nature</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>René Descartes</b></p>  <p>"Cogito Ergo Sum" "I think, therefore I am" "Except our own thoughts, there is nothing absolutely in our power." "The reading of all good books is like a conversation with the finest minds of past centuries."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>René Descartes</b> (1596 – 1650) was a <a href="#">philosopher</a>, <a href="#">scientist</a>, and <a href="#">mathematician</a> from <a href="#">France</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Legacy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Cartesianism:</b> Introduced a systematic approach to doubt and rational inquiry</li> <li>▪ <b>Analytical Geometry:</b> Bridged algebra and geometry, shaping modern mathematics</li> <li>▪ <b>Works:</b> Authored <i>Meditations on First Philosophy</i> and <i>Discourse on the Method</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Philosophy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EXISTENCE ▪ <b>Cogito Ergo Sum:</b> Asserted self-awareness ("I think, therefore I am") as the basis of philosophy</li> <li>▪ <b>Mind-Body Dualism:</b> Claimed the mind is distinct from the body and the physical world</li> <li>KNOWLEDGE ▪ <b>Cartesian Doubt:</b> Employed <a href="#">skepticism</a> to discard uncertain beliefs and establish basic truths</li> <li>▪ <b>Innatism:</b> Argued that certain ideas, such as God and mathematics, are inherent (like Plato)</li> <li>▪ <b>Causal Adequacy Principle:</b> Stated an effect cannot be more real than its cause (proof of God)</li> <li>VALUES ▪ <b>Free Will &amp; Reason:</b> Emphasized reason as the guide for moral actions</li> <li>▪ <b>Religion &amp; Science:</b> Sought to reconcile scientific inquiry with religious faith</li> <li>REASONING ▪ <b>Scientific Method:</b> Advocated for a rational, structured approach to investigating nature</li> <li>▪ <b>Deductive Reasoning:</b> Applied mathematical precision to philosophic arguments</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Modern Philosophers (Enlightenment)	
<p><b>John Locke</b></p>  <p>"Where there is no law, there is no freedom." "What worries you, masters you."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>John Locke</b> (1632 – 1704) was a <b>philosopher</b> and <b>physician</b> from <b>England</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Legacy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Father of Liberalism:</b> Laid the foundation for constitutional government and individual rights</li> <li>▪ <b>Works:</b> Wrote <i>Two Treatises of Government</i> &amp; <i>An Essay Concerning Human Understanding</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Philosophy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EXISTENCE ▪ <b>Blank Slate (Tabula Rasa):</b> Claimed the mind starts empty and is shaped entirely by experience</li> <li>KNOWLEDGE ▪ <b>Primary &amp; Secondary Qualities:</b> Separated objective traits (shape) from subjective traits (color)</li> <li>KNOWLEDGE ▪ <b>Empiricism:</b> Emphasized that <b>ideas</b> come from <b>sensation</b> (the 5 senses) or <b>reflection</b> (thinking)</li> <li>VALUES ▪ <b>Natural Rights:</b> Believed all individuals possess inherent rights to life, liberty, and property</li> <li>VALUES ▪ <b>Limited Government:</b> Argued for <b>equality under the law</b> and restricted government power</li> <li>VALUES ▪ <b>Consent of the Governed:</b> Held that political power is legitimate only with public approval</li> <li>REASONING ▪ <b>Social Contract:</b> Stated that people can overthrow a government which violates basic rights</li> <li>REASONING ▪ <b>Religious Tolerance:</b> Promoted religious freedom for coexistence (with some exceptions)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>J.J. Rousseau</b> Jean-Jacques Rousseau</p>  <p>"Man is born free, and everywhere he is in chains." "To renounce liberty is to renounce being a man."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Jean-Jacques Rousseau</b> (1712 – 1778) was a <b>philosopher</b> and <b>composer</b> from <b>Geneva, Switzerland</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Legacy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Political Philosophy:</b> Influenced politics in the <b>Age of Enlightenment</b> and the <b>French Revolution</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Works:</b> Wrote <i>The Social Contract</i>, <i>Discourse on Inequality</i>, and <i>Émile, or on Education</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Philosophy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EXISTENCE ▪ <b>Human Goodness:</b> Felt that human good is corrupted by society (<i>Amour de soi</i> vs. <i>Amour-propre</i>)</li> <li>EXISTENCE ▪ <b>Critique of Inequality:</b> Asserted that <b>private property</b> causes inequality</li> <li>KNOWLEDGE ▪ <b>General Will:</b> Argued for laws focused on the <b>general will</b> instead of the <b>will of all</b></li> <li>KNOWLEDGE ▪ <b>Child-Centered Education:</b> Felt that education must nurture curiosity &amp; align with development</li> <li>VALUES ▪ <b>Social Contract:</b> Wrote that political authority comes from the collective "<b>general will</b>"</li> <li>VALUES ▪ <b>Civil Religion:</b> Argued civil religion unites citizens morality and is essential for modern society</li> <li>REASONING ▪ <b>Direct Democracy:</b> Advocated for direct democracy as the most authentic governance</li> <li>REASONING ▪ <b>Popular Sovereignty:</b> Stated that <b>government</b> is founded on the <b>consent of the governed</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Immanuel Kant</b></p>  <p>"Act only according to that maxim whereby you can at the same time will that it should become a universal law."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Immanuel Kant</b> (1724 – 1804) was a <b>philosopher</b> from <b>Königsberg, Prussia</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Legacy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Modern Philosophy:</b> Father of <b>deontology</b>; merged <b>rationalism</b> &amp; <b>empiricism</b> in <b>epistemology</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Works:</b> Wrote <i>Critique of Pure Reason</i>, <i>Critique of Practical Reason</i>, <i>Critique of Judgment</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Philosophy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EXISTENCE ▪ <b>Transcendental Idealism:</b> Argued that ideal existence transcends perception (<b>noumenon</b>)</li> <li>KNOWLEDGE ▪ <b>Limits of Knowledge:</b> Asserted that our knowledge is confined to <b>phenomenon</b> (vs. <b>noumenon</b>)</li> <li>KNOWLEDGE ▪ <b>A Priori vs. A Posteriori:</b> Argued truth is both independent of experience and informed by it</li> <li>VALUES ▪ <b>Kantian Ethics:</b> Emphasized the moral worth of actions taken based on free will (<b>deontology</b>)</li> <li>VALUES ▪ <b>Categorical Imperative:</b> Advocated universal <b>moral principles</b> based on <b>duty</b> and <b>rationality</b></li> <li>VALUES ▪ <b>Kingdom of Ends:</b> Argued humans should be treated as an end (<b>goal</b>) vs. a <b>means to an end</b></li> <li>REASONING ▪ <b>Critical Philosophy:</b> Examined the structures of human reason to determine its limits</li> <li>REASONING ▪ <b>Moral Reasoning:</b> Grounded ethics in principles rather than consequences</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Jeremy Bentham</b></p>  <p>"The greatest happiness of the greatest number is the foundation of morals and legislation." "Every law is an infraction of liberty."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Jeremy Bentham</b> (1748 – 1832) was a <b>philosopher</b> and <b>social reformer</b> from <b>England</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Legacy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Utilitarianism:</b> Pioneered the principle of the greatest happiness for the greatest number</li> <li>▪ <b>Legal Reform:</b> Advocated for just punishment, liberty, <b>women's rights</b> &amp; <b>animal rights</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Works:</b> Wrote <i>An Intro to Principles of Morals &amp; Legislation</i> and <i>A Fragment on Government</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Philosophy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EXISTENCE ▪ <b>Psychological Hedonism:</b> Argued humans are motivated by seeking pleasure and avoiding pain</li> <li>EXISTENCE ▪ <b>Utility (Felicific) Calculus:</b> Developed a method to quantify pleasure &amp; pain in decision-making</li> <li>KNOWLEDGE ▪ <b>Legal Positivism:</b> Rejected <b>natural rights</b>, claiming laws derive validity from utility, not morality</li> <li>KNOWLEDGE ▪ <b>Theory of Fictions:</b> Warned that terms can be manipulated for deception, especially in the law</li> <li>VALUES ▪ <b>Principle of Utility:</b> Judged actions by whether they promote happiness or suffering</li> <li>VALUES ▪ <b>Equal Consideration:</b> Advocated for impartiality in weighing everyone's pleasure and pain</li> <li>VALUES ▪ <b>Consequentialism:</b> Determined the morality of actions based on their outcomes</li> <li>REASONING ▪ <b>Rational Analysis:</b> Applied logic to reform laws, policies, and institutions</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Late Modern Philosophers (19 <sup>th</sup> Century)	
<p><b>G.W.F. Hegel</b> Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel</p>  <p>"We learn from history that we do not learn from history." "Freedom is the insight into necessity."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>G.W.F. Hegel</b> (1770 – 1831) was a <b>philosopher</b> from <b>Germany</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Legacy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Hegelianism:</b> Revolutionized philosophy with a system linking logic, nature, and spirit</li> <li>▪ <b>Works:</b> Wrote influential texts such as <i>The Phenomenology of Spirit</i> and <i>The Science of Logic</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Philosophy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EXISTENCE ▪ <b>Absolute Idealism:</b> Claimed reality is a manifestation of a rational, self-developing 'Absolute'</li> <li>▪ <b>Unity of Opposites:</b> Argued that contradictions drive progress and development</li> <li>KNOWLEDGE ▪ <b>Phenomenology of Spirit:</b> Traced human thought from basic awareness to absolute knowledge</li> <li>▪ <b>Historical Context:</b> Believed ideas, values, and institutions are shaped by history</li> <li>VALUES ▪ <b>Ethical Life (Sittlichkeit):</b> Emphasized alignment of individual, family, civil society, and state</li> <li>▪ <b>Lord–Bondsman Dialectic:</b> Explained how freedom emerges through struggle and recognition</li> <li>REASONING ▪ <b>Hegelian Dialectic:</b> Described progress through contradictions (thesis-antithesis-synthesis)</li> <li>▪ <b>Science of Logic:</b> Developed dialectical logic as a dynamic system of thought</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>John Stuart Mill</b></p>  <p>"It is better to be a human being dissatisfied than a pig satisfied."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>John Stuart Mill</b> (1806 CE – 1873 CE) was a <b>philosopher</b>, <b>economist</b>, and <b>social reformer</b> from <b>London</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Legacy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Utilitarianism:</b> Expanded <b>Bentham's</b> utilitarian philosophy, emphasizing qualitative differences</li> <li>▪ <b>Works:</b> Wrote key texts such as <i>On Liberty</i>, <i>Utilitarianism</i>, and <i>The Subjection of Women</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Philosophy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EXISTENCE ▪ <b>Flourishing:</b> Defined happiness as flourishing, including intellectual and moral development</li> <li>KNOWLEDGE ▪ <b>Empiricism:</b> Argued that knowledge stems from experience, observation, and reasoning</li> <li>VALUES ▪ <b>Utilitarianism:</b> Advocated for maximizing happiness while considering both quality &amp; quantity</li> <li>▪ <b>Harm Principle:</b> Claimed individual actions should be free unless they harm others</li> <li>▪ <b>Moral Progress:</b> Emphasized free speech and debate as essential for societal growth</li> <li>REASONING ▪ <b>Justice and Utility :</b> Argued that utility and justice combine to contribute to overall happiness</li> <li>▪ <b>Practical Philosophy:</b> Applied philosophical principles to real-world social and political issues</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Karl Marx</b></p>  <p>"Workers of the world unite; you have nothing to lose but your chains." "From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Karl Marx</b> (1818 – 1883) was <b>philosopher</b>, <b>political theorist</b>, <b>economist</b> &amp; <b>journalist</b> from <b>Germany</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Legacy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Marxism:</b> Developed a revolutionary framework for analyzing society, economics, and history</li> <li>▪ <b>Works:</b> Wrote <i>Das Kapital</i> and co-authored the <i>Communist Manifesto</i> with Friedrich Engels</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Philosophy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EXISTENCE ▪ <b>Historical Materialism:</b> Argued that economic structures have shaped societal development</li> <li>▪ <b>Class Struggle:</b> Asserted that history is defined by conflicts between oppressors and oppressed</li> <li>KNOWLEDGE ▪ <b>Dialectical Materialism:</b> Merged Hegelian dialectics and materialism to explain social evolution</li> <li>▪ <b>Praxis:</b> Emphasized that theory must lead to revolutionary action in order to transform society</li> <li>VALUES ▪ <b>Exploitation of Labor:</b> Criticized capitalism for extracting surplus value from workers</li> <li>▪ <b>Emancipation:</b> Sought human liberation from alienation and oppression in all forms</li> <li>REASONING ▪ <b>Critique of Capitalism:</b> Felt that capitalism make labor a commodity, which drives inequality</li> <li>▪ <b>Revolutionary Socialism:</b> Predicted the collapse of capitalism via a proletarian revolution</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Friedrich Nietzsche</b></p>  <p>"God is dead." "That which does not kill us makes us stronger." "Without music, life would be a mistake." "Become who you are."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Friedrich Nietzsche</b> (1844 – 1900) was <b>philosopher</b>, <b>classical scholar</b>, and critic of <b>culture</b> from <b>Germany</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Legacy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Existentialism:</b> Influenced existentialism, postmodernism, and 20th-century philosophy</li> <li>▪ <b>Works:</b> Wrote <i>Beyond Good and Evil</i>, <i>On the Genealogy of Morality</i> &amp; <i>Thus Spoke Zarathustra</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Philosophy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EXISTENCE ▪ <b>Eternal Recurrence:</b> Speculated that life repeats infinitely, urging people to live as if reliving life</li> <li>▪ <b>Love of Fate (Amor Fati):</b> Advocated for fully embracing life, including suffering and challenges</li> <li>KNOWLEDGE ▪ <b>Perspectivism:</b> Argued that truth is subjective and dependent on one's perspective</li> <li>▪ <b>Critique of Rationalism:</b> Rejected the idea that reason alone can uncover ultimate truths</li> <li>VALUES ▪ <b>Nihilism:</b> Emphasized that life is meaningless and traditional moral values are baseless</li> <li>▪ <b>Superman (Übermensch):</b> Imagined a person who avoids social norms and has individual values</li> <li>▪ <b>Master-Slave Morality:</b> Distinguished between the values of the powerful and the subjugated</li> <li>▪ <b>Nietzschean Affirmation:</b> Encouraged vitality, creativity, and individuality over conformity</li> <li>REASONING ▪ <b>Genealogy of Morality:</b> Explored the history of moral values as a critique of cultural norms</li> <li>▪ <b>Aphorisms:</b> Used short, provocative statements to challenge conventional thinking</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>



Early Contemporary Philosophers (20 <sup>th</sup> Century)	
<p><b>Black Elk</b></p>  <p>"The Holy Land is everywhere." "Sometimes dreams are wiser than waking."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Black Elk</b> (1863 – 1950) was a <b>philosopher</b> and <b>spiritual leader</b> from modern-day <b>Wyoming</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Legacy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Holy Man:</b> Revered <b>Lakota Sioux (Oglala)</b> spiritual leader known for his visions &amp; wisdom</li> <li>▪ <b>Works:</b> Shared Lakota traditions in the book <b>Black Elk Speaks</b>, recorded by John G. Neihardt</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Philosophy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EXISTENCE ▪ <b>Sacred Hoop:</b> Saw all life as interconnected, symbolized by the sacred hoop.</li> <li>▪ <b>Visionary:</b> Experienced profound visions emphasizing harmony, unity, and spiritual balance</li> <li>KNOWLEDGE ▪ <b>Oral Tradition:</b> Emphasized storytelling to preserve and transmit wisdom</li> <li>VALUES ▪ <b>Environmental Stewardship:</b> Taught respect for the land as sacred and vital to life</li> <li>▪ <b>Animism and Kinship:</b> Viewed all life as related, with reciprocal obligations &amp; responsibilities</li> <li>REASONING ▪ <b>Ritual and Symbolism:</b> Used ceremonies and sacred symbols to convey deeper spiritual truths</li> <li>▪ <b>Visionary Guidance:</b> Applied insights from visions for guidance during times of upheaval</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Gandhi</b> Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi Mahatma Gandhi</p>  <p>"Be the change that you wish to see in the world." "An eye for an eye will make the whole world blind."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Gandhi</b> (1869 – 1948) was a <b>philosopher</b>, <b>lawyer</b>, and <b>anti-colonial nationalist</b> from <b>India</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Legacy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Reformism:</b> Championed causes like caste equality, women’s rights, and rural self-reliance</li> <li>▪ <b>Global Luminary:</b> Inspired civil rights leaders like <b>Martin Luther King Jr.</b> and <b>Nelson Mandela</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Works:</b> Wrote many texts that are published in <b>The Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Philosophy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EXISTENCE ▪ <b>Truth (Satya):</b> Believed in the pursuit of truth as the highest calling</li> <li>▪ <b>Simple Living:</b> Emphasized simple living and harmony with the environment</li> <li>KNOWLEDGE ▪ <b>Experiential Learning:</b> Advocated learning through experience, self-discipline, and reflection</li> <li>▪ <b>Religious Pluralism:</b> Valued insights from all religions, emphasizing shared ethical principles</li> <li>VALUES ▪ <b>Nonviolence (Ahimsa):</b> Opposed violence in all forms, promoting peace to achieve justice</li> <li>▪ <b>Self-Governance (Swaraj):</b> Encouraged the autonomy of individuals and communities</li> <li>REASONING ▪ <b>Civil Disobedience:</b> Used peaceful noncooperation to challenge unjust laws and system</li> <li>▪ <b>Constructive Program:</b> Advocated proactive social change through local initiatives</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Contemporary Philosophers (20 <sup>th</sup> Century-)	
<p><b>Jean-Paul Sartre</b></p>  <p>"Hell is other people." "Man is condemned to be free." "Existence precedes essence." "We are our choices."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Jean-Paul Sartre</b> (1905 – 1980) was a <b>philosopher</b> from <b>France</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Legacy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Existentialism:</b> A leading figure, emphasizing freedom, choice, and responsibility</li> <li>▪ <b>Nobel Prize Refusal:</b> Declined the 1964 <b>Nobel Prize in Literature</b> to maintain his independence</li> <li>▪ <b>Works:</b> Authored <b>Being and Nothingness</b>, <b>Nausea</b>, <b>No Exit</b>, and <b>others</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Philosophy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EXISTENCE ▪ <b>Existence Precedes Essence:</b> Claimed humans create their essence instead of being born with it</li> <li>▪ <b>Freedom Causes Anguish:</b> Emphasized that total freedom brings responsibility and anxiety</li> <li>KNOWLEDGE ▪ <b>Phenomenology:</b> Focused on individual experiences instead of objective, universal truths</li> <li>▪ <b>Subjectivity:</b> Argued that knowing a person’s perspective is central to assessing their actions</li> <li>VALUES ▪ <b>Authenticity:</b> Urged people to live genuinely through freedom and creating their own values</li> <li>▪ <b>Bad Faith:</b> Critiqued self-deception and avoidance of responsibility as inauthentic living</li> <li>REASONING ▪ <b>Critique of Dialectical Reason:</b> Combined existentialism with Marxist critique to analyze society</li> <li>▪ <b>Practical Philosophy:</b> Believed philosophy must address real-world issues and inspire action</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>John Mbiti</b></p>  <p>"I am because we are, and since we are, therefore I am." "A person is never truly dead until they are forgotten."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>John Mbiti</b> (1931 – 2019) was <b>philosopher</b> and <b>Anglican priest</b> from <b>Kenya</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Legacy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>African Theology:</b> Studied of the relationship between African religions and Christianity</li> <li>▪ <b>Works:</b> Wrote <b>African Religions and Philosophy</b> and <b>Introduction to African Religion</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Philosophy:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EXISTENCE ▪ <b>Wheel of Time:</b> Proposed a cyclical time focused on the present and immediate past</li> <li>▪ <b>African Communalism:</b> Emphasized the interconnectedness of individuals within a community</li> <li>KNOWLEDGE ▪ <b>Oral Tradition:</b> Highlighted storytelling, proverbs, and rituals as key sources of African wisdom</li> <li>▪ <b>Faith &amp; Culture:</b> Integrated African traditions with Christian theology</li> <li>VALUES ▪ <b>Ubuntu Philosophy:</b> Emphasized mutual respect and shared humanity (“I am because we are”)</li> <li>▪ <b>Sacredness of Life:</b> Stressed reverence for life and harmony with nature and ancestors</li> <li>REASONING ▪ <b>Comparative Religion:</b> Used cross-cultural analysis to show the universality of spiritual themes</li> <li>▪ <b>Inclusivism:</b> Argued for recognizing African thought as part of global philosophy</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

AREAS OF PHILOSOPHIC THOUGHT	
<b>Metaphysics</b>	
Ontology	The study of existence and being
Cosmology	The study of the origin, evolution, and fate of the universe from a religious perspective
Phenomenology	The study of subjective conscious experiences and the structures of perception
Process Philosophy	The study of reality as dynamic and constantly evolving rather than static
Teleology	The study of phenomena by reference to their purposes or goals
Stoicism	The belief that the practice of the four cardinal virtues is enough to achieve a well-lived life (eudaimonia)
Monism	The belief that all of reality is composed of a single substance or principle
Dualism	The belief that reality consists of two distinct substances, often the mind and body
Pluralism	The belief that reality consists of multiple, independent substances or principles
Naturalism	The belief that everything arises from natural properties and causes, excluding supernatural elements
Materialism	The belief that only physical matter exists and everything is explainable in physical terms
Existentialism	The belief in individual freedom, choice, and subjective experience
Realism	The belief that universals or abstract entities exist independently of the mind
Nominalism	The belief that universals are mere names without any real existence outside the mind
Idealism	The belief that reality is fundamentally a mental construct (mind, spirit, or consciousness)
Essentialism	The belief that entities have a set of essential characteristics that define their identity
Determinism	The belief that all events are caused by preceding factors, leaving no room for free will
Indeterminism	The belief that not all events are determined and that free will is possible
Theism	The belief in a personal, intervening God
Pantheism	The belief that God and the universe are identical
Panentheism	The belief that God encompasses and transcends the universe
Emanationism	The belief that all existing things are derived from a first reality, or first principle, who is God
Creationism	The belief that nature, and aspects such as the universe, originated with supernatural acts of divine creation
Atheism	The lack of belief in the existence of any God
<b>Epistemology</b>	
Structuralism	The study of knowledge in terms of underlying structures or systems
Skepticism	The belief that true knowledge may be unattainable
Dogmatism	The belief that a firmly held belief is always true in all situations
Empiricism	The belief that knowledge comes primarily from sensory experience
Rationalism	The belief that reason is the primary source of knowledge, independent of sensory experience
Relativism	The belief that truth and justification are relative to individuals or cultures
Naturalism	The belief that knowledge arises from natural processes and scientific methods
Contextualism	The belief that the truth or justification of a belief depends on the context in which it is considered
Fideism	The belief that faith is independent of reason and the ultimate path to truth
Coherentism	The belief that justification for beliefs comes from their coherence with other beliefs
Foundationalism	The belief that knowledge is built on fundamental, self-evident truths
Fallibilism	The belief that all knowledge is potentially subject to error
Infallibilism	The belief that knowledge must be certain and error-free
Infinetism	The belief that justification for idea involves an infinite regress of reasons
Perspectivism	The belief that knowledge is always from a particular perspective and limited by it
Pragmatism	The belief that truth is determined by practical consequences and usefulness
Solipsism	The belief that only one's own mind is sure to exist
<b>Value Theory</b>	
Ethics	The study of moral principles guiding human conduct
Aesthetics	The study of beauty, art, and taste
Political Philosophy	The study of government, justice, rights, and the nature of political systems
Virtue Ethics	The study of character and virtues rather than rules or consequences
Deontology	The study of the nature of duty and obligation
Utilitarianism	The belief that the best action is the one that maximizes overall happiness.
Consequentialism	The belief that rightness or wrongness based on outcomes or consequences
Hedonism	The belief that pleasure is the highest good and primary aim of life
Altruism	The belief that one should act selflessly for the benefit of others
<b>Logic</b>	
Formal Logic	The study of valid inference with a focus on structure and symbolic representation
Informal Logic	The study of reasoning and argumentation in natural language
Non-Classical Logic	The study of logical systems that deviate from classical logic, such as modal or fuzzy logic
Dialectic	A method of argument involving contradiction and resolution to uncover truth
Syllogistic Logic	A method of reasoning using deductive arguments with two or more premises and a conclusion
Deductive Reasoning	A method drawing specific conclusions from general premises
Inductive Reasoning	A method drawing general conclusions from specific observations

NOTE: This list is not all-inclusive. Additional areas of philosophic thought exist.

## Philosophical Concepts

Concept	Explanation	Key Proponent	Category
Essence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A description of a <b>general being or object</b> – “what something is”               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Describes the nature of something (e.g. a man, a dog, a tree)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Avicenna	Metaphysics
Existence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A description of an <b>actual being or object</b> – “that something is”               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Describes the reality of something (e.g. Mark, Fido, a pine tree)                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Necessary Existence:</b> Is independent, so it must exist (God) (essence = existence)</li> <li>▪ <b>Contingent Existence:</b> Is dependent, so it might exist (Mark) (essence ≠ existence)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Avicenna	Metaphysics
Universals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>General concepts</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Exist in the mind</li> <li>○ Not directly perceived by the senses</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Aristotle	Metaphysics
Particulars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Actual beings or objects</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Exist in reality</li> <li>○ Directly perceived by the senses</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Aristotle	Metaphysics
Forms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Perfect beings or objects</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Everlasting, independent, and perfect</li> <li>○ Exist beyond human perception</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Plato	Metaphysics & Epistemology
Primary Qualities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Properties that are <b>independent of the observer</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Include <a href="#">shape</a>, <a href="#">solidity</a>, <a href="#">number</a>, <a href="#">motion</a>, and <a href="#">extension</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Locke	Metaphysics & Epistemology
Secondary Qualities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Properties that are <b>dependent on the observer</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Include <a href="#">color</a>, <a href="#">taste</a>, <a href="#">smell</a>, and <a href="#">sound</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Locke	Metaphysics & Epistemology
Noumena	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reality as it truly <b>exists</b> in itself               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Independent of human perception</li> <li>○ Cannot be truly known by humans</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Kant	Metaphysics & Epistemology
Phenomena	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reality as it <b>appears</b> to us               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Shaped by human perception</li> <li>○ Includes both primary &amp; secondary qualities</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Kant	Epistemology
Active Intellect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The mind’s ability to <b>grasp universals</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Derives universals from particulars</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Aristotle	Epistemology
Passive Intellect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The mind’s ability to <b>grasp particulars</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Perceives particulars through the senses</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Aristotle	Epistemology

NOTE: This list is not all-inclusive. Additional concepts and proponents exist.

This table summarizes the key concepts highlighted in this document for understanding & comparison purposes.