

Philosophy Map 1: Schools of Philosophy

Ancient Philosophy - extending to 600 CE approx

Pre Socratic —also known as early Greek philosophy, refers to philosophy before Socrates, which tended to concern the workings of the natural world, ethics, and religion, as well as cosmology and the universe. Invented some of the central concepts of Western civilisation, and paved way for scientific methodology.

Covers Milesian, Pythagoreanism, Ephesian, Eleatics, Pluralist, Atomism and Sophism.

Classical Greek —the philosophy originating after Socrates, which often had more of an ethical basis. Socrates' student Plato, and his student Aristotle, are considered the Founding Fathers of Greek Philosophy.

Socrates was born in 5th century BC. Post-Socratic philosophy includes Cynicism, Cyrenaics, Platonism, Peripatetic, Megarian, and Eretrian.

Hellenistic —this is sometimes placed under the banner of Classical Greek Philosophy, as it is the Western and Ancient Greek Philosophy that came about during the Hellenistic period (a period in Mediterranean history between 323 and 31 BC, from the death of Alexander the Great to the emergence of the Roman Empire). While the Romans did contribute to Philosophy, much of their philosophy was influenced by Greek and Hellenistic philosophers.

Includes Skepticism, Epicureanism, Neoplatonism, Neopythagoreanism, Pyrrhonism, and Stoicism.

Classical Chinese— philosophies that flourished from the 6th century BC to 221 BC, also known as the Hundred Schools of Thought.

Includes Confucianism, Legalism, Taoism, Mohism, Naturalistics, Names, Diplomacy, Agriculturalism, Syncretism, and Yangism.

Classical Indian— split into Orthodox schools, such as Samkhya, Yoga, Mimamsa, Vedanta and Vaisheshika, and Heterodox schools, such as Jain, Buddhist, Charvaka, Ajivika, and Anjnana.

Medieval Philosophy - 5th century to Renaissance

Christian—philosophy by Christians or relating to Christianity, during the post classical period. Divides into early, scholastics, and pre-modern christian.

Includes Neoplatonism Christian, Scholasticism, and Thomism.

Islamic—lasted until the 6th century AH/12th century CE, known as early or classical Islamic philosophy, in a period referred to as the Islamic Golden Age.

Covers Avicennism, Averroism, and Illuminationism.

Jewish—mainly describing 'Judeo-Islamic philosophies' as they were strongly influenced by Islamic philosophers. However, the contributions are significant!

Post-classical Chinese—this period encompasses both the early and the mid-to-late Imperial era in China's history. The main schools of thought were Xuanxue, Buddhism, Zen, and Neo-Confucianism.



Renaissance Philosophy
Approx 1350 to 1650

Renaissance—sometimes overlapping with late medieval philosophy and early modern philosophy, and not always considered a period, based on the assumption no radical shifts in perspective took place. However, the influences of the Renaissance on philosophy is still considered notable by many, and schools of thought attributed to this time include Renaissance Humanism, Renaissance Jewish, Machiavellianism, Neostoicism, Ramism, and Salamanca.

Contemporary Philosophy is the current period of history in Western Philosophy, beginning in the early 20th century with increasing professionalisation of the discipline. Focuses on 8 specific branches and is often divided into Analytic and Continental sections.

Early Modern Philosophy
16th—18th centuries

Early Modern—includes many influential philosophers and the Enlightenment period, which was an extremely progressive period of Western thought, exploring mind and matter, the supernatural, and civil life. Includes Empiricism, Rationalism, and Idealism.

Analytic - characterised by emphasis on language and formal logic.

Continental - characterised by knowledge, experience, and reality being understood in reflection rather than empirically.

Contemporary Asian - includes Buddhist Modernism, New Confucianism, Maoism, Kyoto and New Vedanta.

Contemporary Islamic - revises some of medieval Islamic. Includes Transcendent Theosophy.

Pragmatism - characterised as viewing topics in terms of practical uses/successes.

Traditionalist - believe in existence of perennial wisdom.

a or *ab*: 'from'
ex: 'from' or 'out of'
sub: 'under'
propter: 'because of'

ad: 'to' or 'toward'
per: 'through' or 'by'
post: 'after'

de: 'from' or 'concerning'
in: 'in' or 'on'
pro: 'for' or 'in exchange for'

Philosophy Map 2: Branches of Philosophy

Epistemology—also known as the theory of knowledge. Epistemology studies the nature, origin, and scope of knowledge, justification of knowledge, rationality of belief, and other key issues - i.e. how people come to learn what they know. It addresses questions like 1) What is knowledge? 2) How is knowledge acquired? 3) What do people know? 4) How do we know what we know? There are four main bases of knowledge within Epistemology: divine revelation, experience, logic/reason, and intuition (and the main concepts roughly align with these - belief, knowledge, truth, and justification). Almost every major historical philosopher has considered questions about what we know and how we know it, and hence the field has been around since the Ancient period. Some of the main schools of thought that address these questions are Empiricism, Rationalism, Skepticism, Pragmatism.

Metaphysics—concerned with the fundamental nature of reality and the world - of space and time, being, identity and change, causality, necessity, and possibility. It questions the nature of consciousness, the relationship between mind and matter, and between substance and attribute, and between potentiality and actuality. It studies what it means to exist and what types of existence there are, with questions like What is there? and What is it like? What is beyond the stars? Are these things external or internal constructs? Questions within Metaphysics come up in many different schools of Philosophy, including Platonism, Naturalists, Taoism, Samkhya, Vedanta, Buddhism, Analytic and Continental.

Logic—the study of reasoning. Logic investigates how conclusions follow from premises, and looks at whether reasoning and arguments are correct, or not. It is often divided into two parts: inductive reasoning and deductive reasoning (the first refers to drawing general conclusions from specific examples, the second is drawing logical conclusions from definitions and axioms). The philosophy of logic studies the scope and nature of logic and questions philosophical problems raised by logic, like how to define logic and how different logical systems relate to each other, as well as the nature of the main concepts (including premises/conclusions/truth, arguments and inferences, fallacies, definitory/strategic rules, and formal systems). Some of the main schools of thought addressing logic are Conceptualism, Constructivism, Dialetheism, Formalism, Intuitionism, Realism, and Platonic Realism.

Ethics—sometimes referred to as moral philosophy. Ethics is a branch of philosophy which seeks to address questions about morality and what is right or wrong. Along with aesthetics it concerns matters of value and is sometimes grouped with this branch, and known as 'axiology'. Within ethics, the three major areas of study are meta-ethics, concerning the theoretical meaning and reference of moral propositions, normative ethics, concerning the practical means of determining a moral course of action, and applied ethics, concerning what a person is obligated or allowed to do in a specific situation. Some of the main schools of thought addressing ethics include Stoicism, Skepticism, Cyrenaic Hedonism, Epicureanism, Utilitarianism, Kantianism, and Pragmatic.

Aesthetics—the branch of philosophy dealing with the nature of beauty, art, taste, and the creation and appreciation of beauty. It is more scientifically defined as the study of sensory or sensori-emotional values (sometimes called judgments of sentiment and taste). Aesthetics covers natural and artificial sources of experience and how we form a judgement on them. One might ask What is art? What is a work of art? What makes good art? Along with ethics, Aesthetics concerns matters of value and is sometimes grouped with ethics and referred to as 'axiology'. It has three foci (one concerning the practice of art, a second involving properties and features of things, and finally a third considering attitudes and experiences). Some of the main schools of thought addressing aesthetics include Kantianism, Platonism, Peripatetic, Skepticism, Naturalism and Analytic.

Political - the study of concepts such as liberty, justice, property, rights, law, and the enforcement of a legal code by authority. The three central topics are the demands of justice in punishment and distribution, how rules of truth and evidence determine legal judgements, and how property rights are defined within the economy. Questions include What is a legal code? Why is law needed? What makes a government legitimate? What rights and freedoms should be protected and what duties do citizens owe a government? It can also cover broader questions such as the political nature of identity, culture, sexuality and religion. Some associated philosophies include Platonism, Peripatetic, Stoicism, Confucianism, Legalism, Egalitarianism and Utopian Communism, Naturalism, Asharite, Mutazilite, Marxism, Communism, Anarchism, Pluralism, Pragmatism, Realism, Socialism, Libertarianism, Consequentialism, and Liberalism.

A Priori - knowledge or justification independent of experience, as opposed to a posteriori, which is based on experience/observation.

Free Will - is the ability of agents to make choices free from certain kinds of constraints.

Causation—action of causing something, relationship between cause and effect. Influence by which one event/process/state/object contributes to another.

