



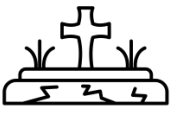


8.5 Introduction to Philosophy

<p style="text-align: center;">Week One</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Plato's Cave</p>	<p><i>Why did Plato claim that we cannot rely on our senses?</i></p>	<p>Plato observed that everything in the world was constantly changing (eg: age, temperature). Therefore, the moment we think we have understood something, it changes and is no longer the same. We cannot rely on our 5 senses.</p>
	<p><i>What is the Realm of the Forms?</i></p>	<p>The idea is that every object in the world we see, is a less-perfect copy of an ideal object found in a world Plato calls the 'Realm of the Forms'. Our souls have visited the Realm of the Forms before entering our bodies and so this is how we can identify common objects such as a 'chair' or a 'cat'.</p>
	<p><i>What is the Realm of Appearances?</i></p>	<p>Plato believed it was the world we live in. It is merely a reflection or shadow of its real true form. (EG: When we see beauty, we recognise that it similar to the perfect form of beauty that our soul experienced in the Realm of Forms.</p>
	<p><i>What is the Analogy of the Cave?</i></p>	<p>This is the analogy Plato used to illustrate his ideas about human knowledge – people who use their senses are like prisoners.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Week Two</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Descartes Doubt</p>	<p><i>Why did Descartes decide to doubt everything?</i></p>	<p>Descartes questioned how we can be sure that anything that we think is real and true, actually IS real and true, and not all illusion. To solve this problem, he doubted everything.</p>
	<p><i>What does empiricism mean?</i></p>	<p>The theory that knowledge is gained through our five senses.</p>
	<p><i>What did Descartes mean by the phrase 'I think; therefore, I am'?</i></p>	<p>This was Descartes first certainty. It was his realisation that the fact he thinks shows that his mind must exist.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Week Three</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Freud & God in the Mind</p>	<p><i>Who was Sigmund Freud?</i></p>	<p>He was an atheist and a psychologist. He was part of the group 'Masters of Suspicion'</p>
	<p><i>What are the three wishes we all have?</i></p>	<p>The desire for a Father; the desire for fairness and for desire for immortality.</p>
	<p><i>Why did Freud believe that religion should be abandoned?</i></p>	<p>Freud thought that religion was an unhealthy cure for the problem of fear. It makes people focus on negative ideas such as sin and hell which make them worst. If people are to find true happiness, they must abandon religion.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Week Four</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Marx & Religion</p>	<p><i>Why did Marx dislike religion?</i></p>	<p>Marx argued that the ruling class used religion as a way of controlling and manipulating the poor. They did this by telling the poor that it is more spiritual to be poor and you will be rewarded in the afterlife.</p>
	<p><i>Why did Marx use the metaphor of opium to describe religion?</i></p>	<p>Marx described religion as the 'opium of the people.' Opium is an addictive, painkilling drug that can cause hallucinations. By using this metaphor, Marx was claiming that the working class become addicted to religious ideas as a way of numbing the pain of their earthly existence.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Week Five</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Nietzsche – Is God dead?</p>	<p><i>What did Nietzsche mean when he said 'God is dead and we have killed him?'</i></p>	<p>Nietzsche was not trying to say that humans had literally killed God. He meant that the idea of God was no longer necessary or believable because science could now answer difficult questions instead.</p>
	<p><i>Why did Nietzsche believe the death of God was a good thing?</i></p>	<p>He thought that the death of God frees people to rethink how to live. It allows humans to start afresh and create a new, more natural morality that reflects our true human nature.</p>