

ETHICS

Utilitarianism

- Jeremy Bentham's quantitative hedonistic utilitarianism
- John Stuart Mill's qualitative hedonistic utilitarianism
- Non-hedonistic utilitarianism and preference utilitarianism
- Act utilitarianism and rule utilitarianism
- Pleasure and the Good
- Fairness and individual liberty/rights
- Problems with happiness calculation, partiality, and individuality

Kantian Deontological Ethics

- Acting in accordance with duty and acting out of duty
- Hypothetical imperatives vs categorical imperatives
- The first and second formulation of the categorical imperative
- The universality of morality
- Competing moral duties and human rights
- Consequences of actions and moral value
- The moral value of motives – e.g. love, friendship, kindness

Aristotelian Virtue Ethics

- 'The good' for human beings: the meaning of Eudaimonia
- The function argument and its relation to virtue
- Aristotle's account of virtues and vices
- Virtues as character traits/dispositions
- The role of education/habituation in the development of a moral character
- The doctrine of the mean and its application to particular virtues

Meta-Ethics

- Moral Realism: moral naturalism and non-naturalism
- Moral Anti-Realism: error theory, emotivism, and prescriptivism
- Whether anti-realism can account for moral reasoning
- The problem of accounting for moral progress

Introductory Reading Resource

Philosophy: The Basics by Nigel Warburton

Available in the school library and at Amazon.co.uk

EPISTEMOLOGY

Defining Knowledge

- Distinction between acquaintance, ability, and propositional knowledge
- The nature of definitions and propositions
- The Tripartite view of knowledge: justified true belief
- The nature of justification: infallibilism and reliabilism

Sources of Knowledge: Perception

- Direct realism: Descartes and Locke
- The arguments from illusion, perceptual variation, and time-lag
- Indirect realism: primary and secondary qualities
- External world scepticism and mind-independence
- Idealism: Berkley's 'master argument'
- Solipsism, theism, and mind-dependence

Sources of Knowledge: Reason

- Innatism: Plato and Leibniz
- Intuition and deduction: Descartes
- The role of rationality and its applications
- Tabula rasa and scientific knowledge: Locke
- Necessary truths and the a priori

The Limits of Knowledge

- Philosophical scepticism
- Local and global application of scepticism
- Language and its limits: Wittgenstein
- Empiricist responses: Locke, Berkley, and Russell
- Reliabilism and scientific progress

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MIND

Substance Dualism

- Descartes and the Mind
- The conceivability and indivisibility argument
- Physics and possibility
- The Other Minds problem
- The conceptual and empirical interaction problem

Property Dualism

- Non-reducibility and Physics
- Qualia and philosophical zombies
- The Knowledge Argument
- Gilbert Ryle and category mistakes
- Self-knowledge and phenomenology

Physicalism

- Philosophical behaviourism
- Hard behaviourism: Hempel
- Soft behaviourism: Ryle
- Multiple realizability and functions
- Mind-Brain Type Identity theory
- Eliminative Materialism

Functionalism

- Mind states and causal roles
- Functional duplicates and qualia
- Scientific reducibility and verifiability
- First-person knowledge
- Mind states v.s. brain states

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