

NAME: _____

LESSON 17 PHILOSOPHY TWO STUDENT NOTES

I. **“What is Ultimately Real?”** This is called “_____”. A combination of “ontology and cosmology”. The Greek word “meta” which means “_____” and “physics” which means _____ things.

A. Some philosophers are “_____”: reality consists of one sort of thing to them.

1. The most common form of monism is “_____” (all reality is merely matter)

2. The most common term to describe this type of monist is “_____”.

B. Some philosophers are “_____”: reality consists of two things...(duo is the Greek word for “two”).

C. Monism and Dualism are both ways of approaching metaphysics. Both try to answer questions about reality such as

1. Are we really just matter or do we possess a “_____”. If so, what does it mean, “to be?”

2. Can some _____ things exist such as numbers, God, minds, souls and so on?

3. Can immaterial things form categories such as humanness, squirrel ness, kindness or _____? Can these categories of meaning be universal and unchanging?

II. **“What does it mean to know?”** (_____) The study of what knowledge is and how we know. Some think we can only know things that are discoverable by the scientific method.

1. “_____”:

2. This philosophy thinks that beliefs such as “it is wrong to torture children for fun” or “The Mona Lisa” is a beautiful painting” don’t count as knowledge because they cannot be explained by the scientific method. However, we DO know these things, so there MUST be other ways of _____ than those employed by the hard sciences.

III. **“With What Part of Our Being Do We Contemplate These Questions?”** When we think about how we know, we are using our mental powers, but what are they?

A. “_____ Problem”: Is our thinking merely a consequence of the matter in our brains or is there a non-material mind?

SECULARISM: Their philosophy is _____, (physicalism, materialism, organicism and other theories “based upon science”. EVERYTHING they believe that is-- holds to the same core: THE _____ WORLD IS ALL THAT EXISTS.

1. The naturalist cannot accept a _____ or a personal First Cause.

2. Man’s supreme aim is working for the welfare and progress of all h_____ in this one and only life.

SECULARIST METAPHYSICS: The physical world came into existence _____ purpose and nothing but the universe exists.

1. Since “physics” is all there is that exists, the Secularist metaphysics is reduced to the hard sciences. Therefore they avoid talking about _____ the universe came to be

2. The B_____ (the most commonly accepted secular theory about origins of the universe) seems to imply that the universe had a beginning...and all beginnings we have EVER observed, have had a _____

SECULARIST EPISTEMOLOGY: The only way of knowing for Secularists is the _____

MIND/BODY PROBLEM:

1. The mind is only a physical phenomenon...a _____ of the brain.

2. This view is described as “mind/body _____”

3. Their reliance on the scientific method as their only source of knowledge _____ their answers about mortality, mind and the nature of human beings.

4. Without God, a natural moral law, or an eternal soul, there is no _____ beyond what we can see and measure and, no _____ beyond what we can accomplish in this life.

MARXISM: Only the _____ world exists...no God or gods exist.

A. Lenin states: "Matter is the objective reality given to us in sensation."

1. Lenin implies that matter is _____ and uncreated.

B. **EPISTEMOLOGY:** The Marxist "know" through _____ and deny all religious truth claims. Knowing ONLY through science is an issue for them when they talk about a classless society and the collapse of Capitalism. How can they possibly prove this using the _____ ???

C. **METAPHYSICS:** Matter is the only existing reality.

1. However, they see reality in a more specific way...the material world has a certain quality to it that allows it to evolve to a state of perfection...this is the _____.

2. Matter exists with a _____ dialectic quality.

D. **MIND/BODY PROBLEM:** Matter is eternal and everything comes from it...even social relationships and our _____.

1. They see the relationship between the mind and the body like the relationship between you and the _____ you see when looking into a still body of water. The reflection is not you, but it is an accurate depiction of one aspect of you.

2. They think our brains allow us to capture _____ of reality which give us the sensation of thinking and creates the *impression* that we have minds.

3. Therefore, the mind is merely a reflection of the material reality...as presented by the brain _____.

POSTMODERNISM: They hold to _____ philosophically. *The denial of the existence or accessibility of an objective reality.*

They REJECT the "C _____" ...The view that the truth of a proposition is determined by how accurately it describes the facts of reality.

They also REJECT "F _____": the theory that basic beliefs exist and form the foundation for knowledge.

EPISTEMOLOGY: There is no _____ Truth...so there is no way of knowing what doesn't exist.

1. There are only " _____ " truths...situated in particular cultural surroundings.

2. Our words describe only our I _____ of reality---not reality itself.

3. And, over time, our words will _____ our understanding of reality.

4. Statements of "truth" (with a small "t") are agreed upon (and indoctrinated in the society) to be interpreted in the same way. They remain "true" as long as your _____ agrees with you.

NOTE: Examples of scholars in history "getting away with" theories that are now believed false. Ptolemy stated that the sun revolved around the earth. "Geocentrism". Rorty said that geocentrism was "true" for them at that time. The idea that truth proceeds from what _____ rather than what is actually REAL, is called "P _____"

NOTE: Rorty is committed to "CONSTRUCTIVISM" which is the idea that we can understand nature by developing _____ CONSTRUCTS to help explain our sensory perceptions. These MODELS are all we can really know about the world.

METAPHYSICS:

1. Substances or identities are not "real" to a Postmodernist. These are just _____.

2. To pursue knowledge and existence is just to play word g _____.