

Introduction to Philosophy

Philosophy is the study of the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality, and existence, especially when considered as an academic discipline.

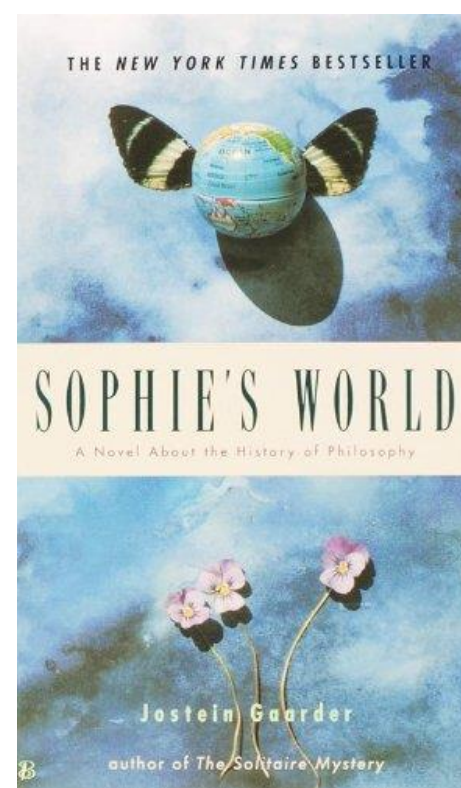
It is the reasoned pursuit of fundamental truths, a quest for understanding, a study of the principles of conduct.

It seeks to establish standards of evidence, to provide rational methods or resolving conflicts, and to create techniques for evaluating ideas and arguments

It is a way of thinking about the world, universe and about people and – in short – how you make sense of your place in the world.

The ideas in philosophy are abstract and often unprovable.

But this does not mean that philosophy is not about the real world. Consider the importance of ethics or philosophical philosophy in today's world.



↪ A 14 year old girl becomes the student of philosopher

↪ Among the interpretations: the breaking free of oppressive beliefs and norms that limit a person's true potential

For thousands of years, philosophers have asked questions like:

- ✓ What is good?
- ✓ What is beautiful?
- ✓ Do we have free will?
- ✓ Does God exist?
- ✓ Does the world around us exist?
- ✓ What is a person?
- ✓ What is truth?
- ✓ What is evil?
- ✓ What is the relationships between mind and body?



Philosophy can be divided into different groups, based on the type of questions that it asks.

❖ In metaphysics

A. Ontology

- ⇒ What is the world we see around us? (what is reality?)
 - ↳ Is there more to the world than just what we see or hear?
 - ↳ If nobody sees something happening, does that mean that it did not happen?
 - ↳ What does it mean to say that something is possible? Do other worlds exist?
- ⇒ Is there anything very special about being a human being to being alive at all?
 - ↳ If not, why do some people think that there is?
- ⇒ What is space? What is time?

B. The philosophy of the mind

- ⇒ What is a mind?
- ⇒ What is a body?
- ⇒ What is consciousness?
- ⇒ Do people make choices, or can they only choose to do one thing? (do people have free will?)
- ⇒ What makes words or ideas meaningful? (what is the relation between meaningful words or ideas and the things that they mean?)
- ⇒ Why is the human brain intelligent and self-aware, while a puddle of water is not? (after all, at an atomic level the two are similar in composition)

C. The philosophy of religion

- ⇒ If God is all-powerful, can he create a stone that is so heavy that he himself cannot lift it?
- ⇒ Questions of God, souls, afterlife...

❖ In political philosophy

❖ In epistemology

⇒ What is knowledge? How can we know anything?

⇒ What is science? What is truth?

❖ In ethics

⇒ What are right and wrong, good and bad?

⇒ Should people do some things and not others? What is justice?

❖ In aesthetics

⇒ What is beauty? What if one person thinks a painting is beautiful, but another thinks it is ugly...can the painting be both beautiful and ugly at the same time?

⇒ What is art?

❖ In logic

⇒ What do the words we use mean?

⇒ How can we say things (especially ideas) in a way that only had one meaning?

⇒ Can all ideas be expressed using language?

❖ In axiology

⇒ What has value?

⇒ Is time really money, or have we made it so?

⇒ Does love, beauty or justice hold any value?