

A promotional image for the movie 'Minority Report' featuring Tom Cruise. He is shown in a dark, futuristic setting, looking intently at a glowing digital interface. The interface displays a circular logo with the words 'PREVENTIVE CRIMINAL JUSTICE' and 'MINORITY REPORT' around it. The overall aesthetic is high-tech and cinematic, with blue and white light effects.

TOM CRUISE

MINORITY REPORT

Preparation Lecture notes
Post-viewing debrief

Philosophy film 'Minority Report' (Steven Spielberg)

Some preparatory lecture notes topics and concepts...

Free will v. Destiny

- **Destiny is a predetermined course of events.**
 - ↳ May be conceived as a predetermined future...a concept based on the belief that there is a fixed natural order to the universe.
 - ↳ Destiny is regarded by some as **fate, a fixed timeline of events that is inevitable and unchangeable, and the future is knowable** through means as divination or religious awareness
- **Free will is choice/agency toward an unwritten future.**

Views on how history/time unfolds

- **Linear progression of history/time**
- **Circular progression of history/time**
 - ↳ "This has all happened before and will again" - Battlestar Galactica

Temporal Mechanics

- ↳ "Temporal" is anything having to do with time.
Some views . . .
 - **All possibilities which can happen, do happen in some dimension; we are only cognizant on our one reality.**
 - 'Back to the Future' syndrome... **changing history from the past only creates a new parallel dimension of possible outcomes.**

PreCognition

- ↳ a form of **extra-sensor perception in which a person perceives information about future places or events before they happen** (as distinct from merely predicting them based on deductive reasoning and current knowledge).
- ↳ Some suggest that preCognition is **a glimpse of a possible future that is based upon present conditions, but which may be altered depending upon acts of free will. This belief implies the future can cause the past, a phenomenon called "backward causality"**

Determinism v. Fatalism

Fatalism is the view that human deliberation and actions are pointless and ineffectual in determining events, because whatever will be will be.

Determinism is the philosophical proposition that **every event, including human cognition and action, is causally determined by an unbroken chain of prior occurrences.** No wholly random, spontaneous, mysterious, or miraculous events occur

Neo-Fatalism / Neo-Determinism

a philosophy which claims that all events are predestined, in areas inside as well as in areas outside human control. Neo-Fatalism argues that free will is an illusion.

Neo-Fatalism asserts that a person's behavior is completely shaped by their personality which, in turn, is shaped by their previous experiences and their biology. Hence, there is no true free will. Due to the interactions with the world around us our personalities are ever-evolving, as we are exposed to new experiences. However, the neo-fatalist view is that those new experiences are themselves an inevitable consequence of our earlier personalities.

This philosophy acknowledges that, in any given situation, there are a multitude of different paths we may follow: however, it states that there is only one of those paths that a person could possibly take.

It should also be noted that, while Neo-Fatalism is similar to the idea of Fate, it has an important difference. Believers in fate will usually argue that whatever course of action is taken by a person, the end result will be the same, because it is pre-ordained. Neo-fatalism argues that it is the choice of action that is inevitable, and hence the outcome is also.

For example, a fatalist might claim that, if a person was ill and was fated to get better, he would get better whether he called a doctor or not.

Responsibility

Ethics

Morals

↳ Categorical imperative

Philosophy of Law and Justice

- Theories of punishment
- Should prisons about rehabilitation or punishment
- What is humane treatment of convicts
- Writ of habeas corpus.
- Can there be a conviction based on intent but no crime?
- “Desert” (David Miller and George Sher)
 - ↳ Desert is a normative concept that is used in day-to-day life. Many believe that being treated as one deserves to be treated is a matter of justice, fairness, or rightness.

Nihilism

↳ Nihilism argues that the world, especially past and current human existence, is without objective meaning, purpose, comprehensible truth, or essential value. Nihilists generally assert some or all of the following: there is no reasonable proof of the existence of a higher ruler or creator, a "true morality" is unknown, and secular ethics are impossible; therefore, life has no truth, and no action is known to be preferable to any other.

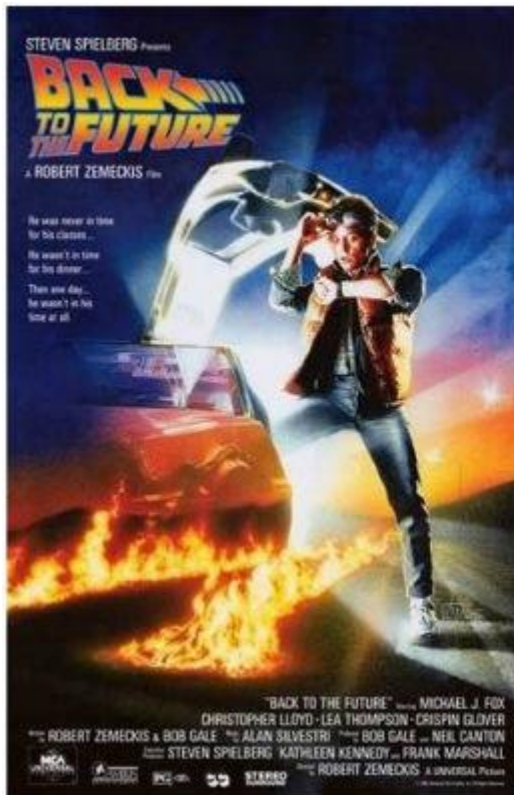
Causation

- Cause-and-effect relationships
- Causation v correlation
- What causes what, and what causes the cause, and what causes that cause, etc...

Some films with weird Time Travel moments



ST:TOS
The City on the Edge of Forever



Back to the Future,
parts I/II/III