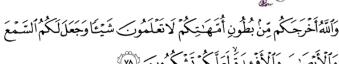
Introduction to Epistemology | October 3, 2015

- 1. Philosophy
 - Metaphysics (ontology)
 - Epistemology (theory of knowledge)
 - Logic
 - **Ethics**
- 2. Epistemology
 - Epistemology comes from Greek episteme knowledge and logos explanation
 - Epistemology studies the defining features, sources, and limits of knowledge
- 3. Ancient Greek Philosophers
 - Socrates (469-399 BC)
 - Plato (427-347 BC)
 - Aristotle (384-322 BC)
- 4. Prior Analytics marks the invention of logic as a formal discipline
 - Syllogism: An argument the conclusion of which is supported by two premises, of which the minor premise contains the minor term that is the subject of the conclusion, and the major premise contains the major term that is the predicate of the conclusion; common to both terms is a middle term that is excluded from the conclusion.

Sample Syllogism:

- o Minor Premise: Aristotle (minor term) is human (middle term)
- o Major premise: All humans (middle term) are mortal (major term)
- o Conclusion: Aristotle (minor term) is mortal (major term)
- 5. Scientific or Demonstrative Syllogism in Posterior Analytics
 - Thunder originates from lightning
 - Lightning originates from clouds
 - Thunder originates from clouds
- 6. Physics, phenomena have four causes
 - The Material cause: wood
 - The Formal cause: the shape of the table
 - The Efficient cause: the carpenter
 - The Final cause: putting stuff on the table
- The Standard Analysis Definition of Knowledge: knowledge is justified true belief
- What does truth consist of?
 - Correspondence: Correspondence of the proposition to actual situation
 - Coherence: Interconnectedness and consistency of a proposition with a specified system of propositions
 - Pragmatic cognitive value: Usefulness of a proposition in achieving certain intellectual goals
- Gettier Problem: "Is Justified True Belief Knowledge?"
 - Smith, has a justified false belief that "Jones owns a Ford". Smith therefore (justifiably) concludes (by the rule of disjunction introduction) that "Jones owns a Ford, or Brown is in Barcelona", even though Smith has no knowledge about the location of Brown.
 - In fact, Jones does not own a Ford, but by sheer coincidence, Brown really is in Barcelona. Smith had a belief that was true and justified, but was not knowledge.
- 10. Species of Knowledge
 - A Priori Knowledge: Not based on experience
 - Rationalism: Descartes, Leibniz, and Spinoza
 - A Posteriori Knowledge: Based on experience
 - Empiricism: Locke, Berkeley, and Hume
 - Kant in Critique of Pure Reason (1781) seeks to reconcile rationalism and empiricism
- 11. Limits of Knowledge
 - Objectivity
 - Relativism
 - Skepticism





Surah al-Nahl, Verse 78 | 14:78

