

# The Philosophabet



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# A

**Absolutism:** The view that there are universal and objective moral truths or principles.

**Accidental Property:** A non-essential characteristic of a thing; a property that something can lose without ceasing to exist (e.g., the color of a car).

**Act Utilitarianism:** The ethical theory that an action is morally right if it maximizes overall happiness or well-being.

**Ad Hominem:** A logical fallacy in which an argument attacks the person making it rather than addressing the substance of the argument itself.

**Aesthetics:** The branch of philosophy concerned with beauty, art, and taste.

**Agnosticism:** The view that the existence of God or the supernatural is unknown or unknowable.

**Alienation:** A sense of separation or estrangement from oneself, others, or society.

**Altruism:** The selfless concern for the well-being of others.

**Analytic Philosophy:** A philosophical approach that emphasizes logic, language, and conceptual analysis.

**Anarchism:** The political philosophy that advocates for the abolition of government and hierarchical authority.

**Antinomy:** A contradiction between two apparently valid principles or arguments.

**A Posteriori:** Knowledge or justification that is derived from experience or empirical evidence.

**A Priori:** Knowledge or justification that is independent of experience and based on reason alone.

**Argument:** A set of statements, called premises, intended to support a conclusion.

**Aristotelianism:** The philosophy of Aristotle, emphasizing logic, virtue ethics, and the natural world.

**Asceticism:** A lifestyle characterized by self-denial and abstinence from worldly pleasures, often for religious or spiritual purposes.

**Atheism:** The rejection of belief in the existence of God or gods.

**Autonomy:** The capacity for self-governance and making choices free from external constraints.

**Axiology:** The philosophical study of value, including ethics and aesthetics.

**Axiom:** A self-evident truth that requires no proof.

# B

**Being:** The fundamental nature or existence of something.

**Belief:** A mental attitude of acceptance or conviction towards a proposition.

**Bentham, Jeremy:** A British philosopher and founder of utilitarianism.

**Berkeley, George:** An Irish philosopher who advocated for idealism, the view that reality consists only of minds and their ideas.

**Bioethics:** The study of ethical issues related to biological and medical research and practices.

**Buddhism:** A religion and philosophy originating in India, emphasizing the cessation of suffering and the attainment of enlightenment.

**Bystander Effect:** A social psychological phenomenon in which individuals are less likely to offer help to a victim when other people are present.

**Bad Faith:** A concept in existentialism, referring to a state of self-deception in which one denies one's freedom and responsibility.

**Beatific Vision:** In Christian theology, the direct, unmediated vision of God in heaven.

**Boolean Logic:** A system of logic that uses the operators AND, OR, and NOT to create complex logical expressions.

**Bourgeoisie:** In Marxist theory, the social class that owns the means of production and exploits the proletariat (working class).

**Brain in a Vat:** A thought experiment that questions the nature of reality and knowledge by imagining a brain kept alive in a vat and fed sensory information.

**Buridan's Ass:** A philosophical paradox that illustrates the problem of free will versus determinism by imagining a donkey equally hungry and thirsty, placed equidistant between food and water, and unable to choose.

**Basic Structure:** In political philosophy, the fundamental institutions and arrangements of a society that determine the distribution of rights, liberties, and opportunities.

**Begging the Question:** A logical fallacy in which the conclusion of an argument is assumed in one of its premises.

**Biopower:** In Foucauldian theory, the power exerted by a state or institution over the biological aspects of life, such as birth, death, health, and reproduction.

**Brain-Computer Interface (BCI):** A technology that enables direct communication between the brain and an external device.

**Body Theory:** A philosophical approach to personal identity that emphasizes the continuity of the physical body over time.

**Bounded Rationality:** The idea that human rationality is limited by cognitive constraints and available information.

**Basic Income:** A social welfare proposal in which all citizens or residents of a country receive an unconditional sum of money from the government.



# C

**Categorical Imperative:** A moral principle formulated by Immanuel Kant that states one should act only according to maxims that one could will to be universal laws.

**Causation:** The relationship between cause and effect.

**Cogito Ergo Sum:** A Latin phrase coined by René Descartes, meaning "I think, therefore I am," used to establish the foundation of his philosophical system.

**Cognitivism:** A theory in psychology that focuses on mental processes such as perception, attention, memory, and decision-making.

**Compatibilism:** The belief that free will and determinism are not mutually exclusive.

**Concept:** A mental representation of a category or class of things.

**Conceptualism:** The theory that universals (general concepts) exist only as mental constructs.

**Consciousness:** The state of being aware of and able to think, feel, and perceive.

**Consequentialism:** An ethical theory that judges the morality of an action based on its consequences.

**Contingent:** Something that is not necessarily true or false, but depends on other factors.

**Contradiction:** A statement or proposition that is logically inconsistent with another statement or proposition.

**Conventionalism:** The philosophical view that moral principles and truths are based on social agreements and conventions.

**Cosmopolitanism:** The belief that all human beings belong to a single moral community and should be treated with equal respect and consideration.

**Counterfactual:** A conditional statement that expresses what would have happened if something that did not happen had happened.

**Critical Thinking:** The ability to analyze information, evaluate arguments, and form judgments based on reason and evidence.

**Cynicism:** A philosophical school that advocated for a simple, virtuous life in accordance with nature and rejected social conventions.

**Cartesian Dualism:** The philosophical view, associated with René Descartes, that the mind and body are distinct substances.

**Confirmation Bias:** The tendency to search for, interpret, favor, and recall information that confirms one's preexisting beliefs or hypotheses.

**Communitarianism:** A political and social philosophy that emphasizes the importance of community and social values in shaping individual identity and well-being.

# D

**Deductive Reasoning:** A form of reasoning that moves from general principles or premises to specific conclusions.

**Deism:** The belief in a supreme being or creator who does not intervene in the universe.

**Deontology:** An ethical theory that emphasizes duty, rules, and moral principles as the basis for determining right and wrong actions.

**Determinism:** The philosophical view that all events, including human actions, are determined by prior causes and are thus inevitable.

**Dialectic:** A method of philosophical inquiry involving a dialogue or debate in which opposing viewpoints are presented and critically examined to arrive at a deeper understanding of the issue.

**Dilemma:** A situation in which a difficult choice must be made between two or more alternatives, often with undesirable consequences.

**Divine Command Theory:** An ethical theory that holds that an action is morally right if and only if it is commanded by God.

**Dualism:** The view that there are two fundamental kinds of substance or reality, such as mind and matter, or good and evil.

**Doxastic Voluntarism:** The philosophical view that individuals have direct control over their beliefs.

**Disposition:** A tendency or inclination to act or react in a particular way.

**Discourse Ethics:** A form of ethical theory that emphasizes the importance of communication and dialogue in establishing moral norms.

**Distributive Justice:** A concept in political philosophy that concerns the fair allocation of resources and goods within a society.

**Dogmatism:** The tendency to assert opinions or beliefs without adequate evidence or consideration of opposing views.

**Double Effect:** A doctrine in moral philosophy that allows for actions that have both good and bad consequences, as long as the intention is good and the bad consequences are not directly intended.

**Double Consciousness:** A concept coined by W.E.B. Du Bois to describe the experience of African Americans living in a society with conflicting cultural identities.

**Dunning-Kruger Effect:** A cognitive bias in which individuals with low ability overestimate their competence, while those with high ability underestimate theirs.

**Dystopia:** An imagined state or society in which there is great suffering or injustice.

**Deep Ecology:** An environmental philosophy that emphasizes the inherent worth of all living beings and promotes ecological harmony.

# E

**Egoism:** The ethical theory that self-interest is the foundation of morality.

**Emotivism:** A meta-ethical theory that claims moral judgments are expressions of emotion or attitude, rather than statements of fact.

**Empiricism:** The philosophical view that knowledge comes primarily or solely from sensory experience.

**Enlightenment:** An intellectual and philosophical movement that emphasized reason, science, and individual autonomy.

**Epistemology:** The branch of philosophy that deals with the nature of knowledge, belief, and justification.

**Essence:** The fundamental nature or defining characteristics of something.

**Eternal Recurrence:** The concept, associated with Nietzsche, that events in the universe will repeat themselves infinitely in the same sequence.

**Ethics:** The branch of philosophy that deals with moral principles, values, and conduct.

**Eudaimonia:** A Greek term often translated as "happiness" or "flourishing," referring to a state of well-being and fulfillment.

**Evil:** That which is morally wrong, harmful, or wicked.

**Evolutionary Ethics:** A field of inquiry that explores the origins and development of moral behavior through the lens of evolutionary theory.

**Existentialism:** A philosophical movement that emphasizes individual existence, freedom, and choice.

**Experience:** The process of acquiring knowledge or skill through direct participation or observation.

**Externalism:** The view in epistemology that factors external to the mind can play a role in justifying beliefs.

**Eliminative Materialism:** A theory in philosophy of mind that claims that mental states, as traditionally conceived, do not exist.

**Emergence:** The phenomenon of complex properties arising from the interaction of simpler components.

**Epiphenomenalism:** The view that mental events are caused by physical events in the brain but have no causal influence on physical events.

**Error Theory:** A meta-ethical theory that claims that all moral judgments are false because there are no objective moral truths.

**Eschatology:** The part of theology concerned with death, judgment, and the final destiny of the soul and humankind.

**Ethical Egoism:** The normative ethical position that moral agents ought to do what is in their own self-interest.

# F

**Fallacy:** A mistaken belief, especially one based on an unsound argument.

**Fallibilism:** The philosophical principle that human beings could be wrong about their beliefs, expectations, or their understanding of the world, and yet still be justified in holding their incorrect beliefs.

**False Consciousness:** A term used by Karl Marx to describe a way of thinking that prevents a person from perceiving the true nature of their social or economic situation.

**Fatalism:** The belief that all events are predetermined and therefore inevitable.

**Feminism:** A range of social movements, political movements, and ideologies that aim to define and establish the political, economic, personal, and social equality of the sexes.

**Form:** In Plato's philosophy, the perfect, eternal, and unchanging essence of a thing, as opposed to its physical manifestation.

**Formal Logic:** The study of the forms of valid reasoning and argumentation, independent of their content.

**Foundationalism:** The theory in epistemology that all knowledge or justified belief rests ultimately on a foundation of non-inferential knowledge or justified belief.

**Frankfurt Cases:** A type of thought experiment in philosophy that challenges the principle of alternate possibilities, which holds that an agent is morally responsible for an action only if they could have done otherwise.

**Free Will:** The power of acting without the constraint of necessity or fate; the ability to act at one's own discretion.

**Functionalism:** A theory about the nature of mental states. It defines mental states by what they do, rather than by what they are made of.

**Fatalism:** The belief that all events are predetermined and therefore inevitable.

**Fideism:** The doctrine that knowledge depends on faith or revelation.

**Folk Psychology:** A human capacity to explain and predict the behavior and mental state of other people.

**Formalism:** The view that the most important aspect of a work of art is its form, rather than its content or meaning.

**Foundationalism:** The theory that all knowledge or justified belief rests ultimately on a foundation of non-inferential knowledge or justified belief.



## G

**Gaia Hypothesis:** The theory proposing that Earth's living organisms and their inorganic surroundings interact as a single self-regulating complex system, maintaining the conditions for life.

**Gedankenexperiment:** A German term for "thought experiment," a hypothetical scenario used to explore the implications of a theory or idea.

**General Will:** A concept in political philosophy, associated with Rousseau, referring to the collective will of the people as a whole, which aims at the common good.

**Genetic Fallacy:** A logical fallacy that dismisses an argument or claim based on its origin or history, rather than its merits.

**Geocentrism:** The astronomical model that places the Earth at the center of the universe.

**Gestalt:** A German term meaning "form" or "shape," used in psychology to refer to the idea that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

**Good Will:** In Kantian ethics, the will to act in accordance with the moral law, out of duty and respect for the law, rather than for personal gain or inclination.

**Great Chain of Being:** A hierarchical model of the universe, popular in medieval and Renaissance thought, in which all beings are ranked in order of their perfection, with God at the top.

**Grounding Problem:** The philosophical problem of explaining how abstract objects or concepts can have causal effects on concrete objects or events.

**Golden Rule:** A moral principle found in many cultures and religions, stating that one should treat others as one would like to be treated.

**Ground:** The fundamental reason or justification for a belief or claim.

**Genus:** A general category or class of things.

**Gestalt Therapy:** A form of psychotherapy that emphasizes personal responsibility and focuses on the individual's experience in the present moment.

**Golden Age:** A mythical or historical period characterized by peace, prosperity, and happiness.

**Good Life:** The philosophical question of what constitutes a fulfilling and meaningful life.

**Genealogy:** A method of historical inquiry that traces the origins and development of ideas, practices, or institutions.

**Geist:** A German term used by Hegel to refer to the spirit or mind that manifests itself in history, culture, and philosophy.

**Gender:** The social and cultural roles, behaviors, and expectations associated with being male or female.

**Genetic Engineering:** The direct manipulation of an organism's genes using biotechnology.

**Global Justice:** The philosophical and political concept of fair and equitable distribution of resources and opportunities among all people worldwide.

# H

**Hedonism:** The ethical theory that pleasure is the highest good and the proper aim of human life.

**Hegelianism:** A philosophical system developed by Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel that emphasizes the dialectical nature of reality and history.

**Hermeneutics:** The theory and methodology of interpretation, especially of texts.

**Historicism:** The theory that social and cultural phenomena are determined by their historical context.

**Holism:** The theory that parts of a whole are in intimate interconnection, such that they cannot exist independently of the whole, or cannot be understood without reference to the whole.

**Humanism:** A philosophical and ethical stance that emphasizes the value and agency of human beings, individually and collectively.

**Hume's Fork:** David Hume's distinction between "relations of ideas" (analytic truths) and "matters of fact" (synthetic truths).

**Hedonic Calculus:** A method of calculating the pleasure or pain caused by an action, used in utilitarianism to determine the moral worth of the action.

**Heuristic:** A mental shortcut or rule of thumb that helps us make decisions or solve problems quickly and efficiently.

**Higher-Order Thought:** A thought about another thought or mental state.

**Historical Materialism:** A methodological approach to the study of society, economics, and history, developed by Karl Marx.

**Human Nature:** The fundamental characteristics and traits that are inherent in human beings.

**Human Rights:** Moral principles or norms that describe certain standards of human behavior and are regularly protected as legal rights in municipal and international law.

**Hypothetical Imperative:** A command that is conditional on a particular goal or desire.

**Hypokeimenon:** A term used by Aristotle to refer to the underlying subject of change or predication.

**Hylozoism:** The philosophical doctrine that all matter is alive or has life-like qualities.

**Hylomorphism:** A philosophical theory developed by Aristotle, which conceives being as a compound of matter and form.

**Heteronomy:** The condition of being under the control of another, particularly in the context of moral decision-making.

**Humanities:** Academic disciplines that study aspects of human society and culture.

**I**

**Idealism:** The metaphysical view that reality is fundamentally mental or spiritual in nature.

**Identity:** The relation that a thing bears only to itself.

**Identity Theory:** The theory in philosophy of mind that mental states are identical to brain states.

**Immanuel Kant:** A German philosopher who is considered a central figure in modern philosophy.

**Imperative:** A command or order.

**Indeterminism:** The view that not all events are causally determined, and some events, especially human actions, are the result of free will.

**Inductive Reasoning:** A type of reasoning that moves from specific observations to general conclusions.

**Inference:** A conclusion reached on the basis of evidence and reasoning.

**Infinite Regress:** A sequence of reasoning or justification that has no end.

**Innate Ideas:** The philosophical doctrine that the mind is born with ideas or knowledge, as opposed to gaining them through experience.

**Instrumentalism:** The view that scientific theories are not true or false descriptions of reality, but rather useful tools for predicting and controlling phenomena.

**Intentionality:** The power of minds and mental states to be about, to represent, or to stand for things, properties, or states of affairs.

**Internalism:** The view in epistemology that justification for beliefs comes from factors internal to the believer's mind.

**Introspection:** The examination or observation of one's own mental and emotional processes.

**Intuition:** The ability to understand something immediately, without the need for conscious reasoning.

**Intuitionism:** The ethical theory that moral truths are known intuitively, without the need for inference or argument.

**Invalid:** An argument in which the premises do not provide adequate support for the conclusion.

**Incompatibilism:** The view that free will and determinism are incompatible.

**Idealism:** The metaphysical view that reality is fundamentally mental or spiritual in nature.

## J

**Justice:** The concept of moral rightness based on ethics, rationality, law, natural law, fairness, religion, equity and/or fairness.

**Justification:** The action of showing something to be right or reasonable.

**Just War Theory:** A doctrine of military ethics that defines when wars can be started and how they can be justly fought.

**JTB Theory:** The theory of knowledge that holds that knowledge is equivalent to justified true belief.

**Judgment:** The ability to make considered decisions or come to sensible conclusions.

**Jurisprudence:** The theory or philosophy of law.

**Justice as Fairness:** A theory of justice developed by John Rawls, based on the idea of a social contract in which people agree to principles of justice from an original position of equality.

**Justification by Faith:** A Christian theological doctrine that teaches that a person is justified (declared righteous by God) solely through faith in Jesus Christ.

**Just Deserts:** The idea that people deserve to be treated in the same way that they have treated others.



**Jus Gentium:** Latin for "law of nations," a set of laws and customs that were common to all or many nations in the ancient world.

**Jus Naturale:** Latin for "natural law," a system of law based on values intrinsic to human nature that can be deduced and applied independent of positive law.

**Justification by Works:** A Christian theological doctrine that teaches that a person's salvation depends on both faith and good works.

**Jaina Logic:** A system of Indian logic that emphasizes the relativity of knowledge and the importance of non-violence.

**Jīva:** A Sanskrit term for the individual soul or life force in Jainism, Hinduism, and other Indian religions.

**Jus ad Bellum:** Latin for "right to war," a set of criteria in just war theory that determine whether it is permissible to go to war.

**Jus in Bello:** Latin for "right in war," a set of criteria in just war theory that determine how a war may be morally fought.

**Judicial Review:** The power of a court to review the constitutionality of laws and government actions.

**Juristic Person:** An entity, such as a corporation or government agency, that has legal rights and responsibilities similar to those of a natural person.

**Jurisdiction:** The official power to make legal decisions and judgments.

# K

**Kantianism:** A philosophical system based on the works of Immanuel Kant, emphasizing reason, morality, and the categorical imperative.

**Knowledge:** Justified true belief, or the understanding of a subject or situation.

**Knowledge Argument:** A philosophical argument against physicalism, which claims that consciousness is a non-physical property.

**Knowledge by Acquaintance:** Direct awareness of something without mediation through concepts or beliefs.

**Knowledge by Description:** Knowledge of something through a description or representation, rather than direct experience.

**Knowledge Gap:** The difference between what is known by experts and what is known by the general public.

**Knowledge Representation:** The study of how knowledge is stored and organized in the mind or in artificial intelligence systems.

**Koan:** A paradoxical anecdote or riddle used in Zen Buddhism to provoke doubt and test a student's progress in Zen practice.

**Kripke, Saul:** An American philosopher and logician known for his contributions to modal logic, philosophy of language, and metaphysics.

**Kierkegaard, Søren:** A Danish philosopher, theologian, poet, social critic, and religious author who is widely considered to be the first existentialist philosopher.

**Kuhn, Thomas:** An American physicist, historian, and philosopher of science known for his influential book "The Structure of Scientific Revolutions."

**Karma:** In Indian religions and philosophies, the principle of cause and effect, where actions in this and previous lives determine one's destiny.

**Kairos:** In rhetoric, the opportune moment for a speech or action.

**Keynesian Economics:** A macroeconomic theory of total spending in the economy and its effects on output, employment, and inflation.

**Kantian Ethics:** A deontological ethical theory based on the works of Immanuel Kant, emphasizing moral duties and the categorical imperative.

**Knowledge First Epistemology:** An epistemological theory that prioritizes the concept of knowledge over that of belief.

**Kantian Transcendental Idealism:** Kant's philosophical system that distinguishes between the world as it appears to us (phenomena) and the world as it is in itself (noumena).

**Knowledge How:** A type of knowledge involving practical skills and abilities, as opposed to knowledge that.

**Kantian Constructivism:** The view that moral principles are not discovered but constructed by rational agents through a process of reasoning.

**Kalam Cosmological Argument:** A philosophical argument for the existence of God based on the idea that the universe had a beginning and therefore must have a cause.

## L

**Lebenswelt:** A German term used by phenomenological philosophers to refer to the world as directly experienced by a person, as opposed to the objective world described by science.

**Leibniz, Gottfried Wilhelm:** A German philosopher and polymath known for his contributions to metaphysics, epistemology, logic, and mathematics.

**Libertarianism:** A political philosophy that emphasizes individual liberty and limited government intervention.

**Logic:** The study of reasoning, inference, and argumentation.

**Logical Positivism:** A philosophical movement that emphasizes empirical verification and rejects metaphysics as meaningless.

**Logos:** A Greek term meaning "word," "reason," or "principle," often used in philosophy to refer to the rational order of the universe.

**Love:** A complex emotion characterized by affection, attachment, and care for another person or thing.

**Libertarian Free Will:** The view that human beings have the power to make choices that are not determined by prior causes.

**Legal Positivism:** The theory that law is a social construct, created and enforced by human institutions, rather than being based on natural or moral principles.

**Locke, John:** An English philosopher and physician, widely regarded as one of the most influential of Enlightenment thinkers and commonly known as the "Father of Liberalism".

**Logical Atomism:** The view that the world is composed of simple, indivisible facts or propositions.

**Logical Empiricism:** A philosophical movement that combines empiricism with logic and emphasizes the importance of verification through observation or experiment.

**Logicism:** The thesis that mathematics is reducible to logic.

**Libertarian Paternalism:** A political philosophy that advocates for policies that nudge people towards making choices that are in their best interests, while still respecting their freedom of choice.

**Linguistic Turn:** A philosophical movement in the 20th century that emphasized the importance of language in understanding reality and knowledge.

**Linguistic Determinism:** The hypothesis that language determines thought and that linguistic categories limit and determine cognitive categories.

**Locke's Theory of Property:** John Locke's theory that property rights are natural rights and are acquired through labor.

**Logical Consequence:** A relationship between statements or propositions in which one statement logically follows from another.

**Logic of the Absurd:** A style of humor that uses illogical situations and events to create a comedic effect.

**Logic Gate:** An idealized or physical device implementing a Boolean function, that is, performing a logical operation on one or more logic inputs and producing a single logic output.

# M

**Materialism:** The philosophical view that matter is the fundamental substance in nature, and that all phenomena, including mental phenomena and consciousness, are results of material interactions.

**Metaphysics:** The branch of philosophy that deals with the first principles of things, including abstract concepts such as being, knowing, substance, cause, identity, time, and space.

**Moral Relativism:** The view that moral judgments are true or false only relative to some particular standpoint (for instance, that of a culture or a historical period) and that no standpoint is uniquely privileged over all others.

**Mind-Body Problem:** The philosophical problem of explaining the relationship between the mind and the body.

**Moral Luck:** The phenomenon that the moral status of an action can be affected by factors outside of an agent's control.

**Modal Logic:** A type of logic that deals with modalities, such as possibility, necessity, and contingency.

**Monism:** The metaphysical view that there is only one kind of substance or reality.



**Moral Absolutism:** The ethical view that there are absolute standards against which moral questions can be judged, and that certain actions are right or wrong, regardless of the context of the act.

**Moral Anti-Realism:** The meta-ethical view that there are no objective moral values or facts.

**Moral Nihilism:** The meta-ethical view that nothing is morally right or wrong.

**Moral Particularism:** The view that there are no moral principles that hold in all situations, and that moral judgments must be made on a case-by-case basis.

**Moral Psychology:** The study of the psychological aspects of morality, such as moral development, moral reasoning, and moral emotions.

**Moral Realism:** The meta-ethical view that there are objective moral values or facts.

**Moral Responsibility:** The status of morally deserving praise, blame, reward, or punishment for an act or omission in accordance with one's moral obligations.

**Moral Skepticism:** The philosophical position that raises doubts about various aspects of morality.

**Methodological Naturalism:** A philosophical approach to scientific inquiry that limits explanations to natural causes and events.

**Means-Ends Distinction:** The distinction between actions that are performed for their own sake (ends) and actions that are performed as a means to achieve some other goal (means).

**Moral Intuition:** A spontaneous judgment about the moral rightness or wrongness of an action.

**Moral Relativism:** The view that moral judgments are true or false only relative to some particular standpoint (for instance, that of a culture or a historical period) and that no standpoint is uniquely privileged over all others.

# N

**Natural Law:** A system of law based on values intrinsic to human nature that can be deduced and applied independent of positive law.

**Naturalism:** A philosophical viewpoint that natural laws and forces (as opposed to supernatural or spiritual ones) operate in the world, and that nothing exists beyond the natural world.

**Necessary Truth:** A proposition that is true in all possible worlds.

**Negative Freedom:** The absence of external constraints or interference that prevent individuals from doing what they want.

**Nihilism:** The philosophical view that life is meaningless and that traditional values and beliefs are unfounded.

**Nominalism:** The philosophical view that universals or abstract objects do not exist, and that only particular individuals or things exist.

**Non-Cognitivism:** The meta-ethical view that moral statements do not express propositions and thus cannot be true or false.

**Normative Ethics:** The branch of ethics that deals with questions about what is morally right or wrong, good or bad.

**Noumenon:** In Kantian philosophy, a thing as it is in itself, independent of our perception of it, as opposed to a phenomenon.

**Naturalistic Fallacy:** The error of deriving an "ought" from an "is," or of inferring moral conclusions from purely factual premises.

**Natural Rights:** Rights that are not dependent on the laws or customs of any particular culture or government, and are therefore universal and inalienable.

**Natural Theology:** The attempt to prove the existence of God and divine attributes through reason and observation of the natural world.

**Natural Selection:** The process by which organisms better adapted to their environment tend to survive and reproduce more successfully than others.

**Natural Kind:** A grouping of objects or organisms that share a common essence or underlying nature.

**Natural Language Processing (NLP):** A field of artificial intelligence that deals with the interaction between computers and human (natural) languages.

**Negative Utilitarianism:** A form of utilitarianism that prioritizes the minimization of suffering over the maximization of happiness.

**Neo-Kantianism:** A philosophical movement that revived and developed Kant's ideas in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

**Neo-Platonism:** A school of philosophy that emerged in the 3rd century AD and sought to synthesize Plato's philosophy with elements of other philosophical and religious traditions.

**Normative:** Relating to or establishing norms or standards.

**Normative Statement:** A statement that expresses a value judgment, such as what ought to be or what is good or bad.



**Ontology:** The branch of metaphysics dealing with the nature of being.

**Objectivism:** A philosophical system developed by Ayn Rand, emphasizing reason, individualism, and laissez-faire capitalism.

**Occam's Razor:** The principle that, of two competing theories, the simpler explanation is to be preferred.

**Objective:** Existing independently of the mind; based on facts rather than feelings or opinions.

**Objectivity:** The state or quality of being objective, unbiased, or impartial.

**Obligation:** A moral or legal duty to do or not do something.

**Obscurantism:** The practice of deliberately preventing the facts or full details of something from becoming known.

**Occasionalism:** The philosophical theory that God is the only cause of events in the world, and that creatures have no causal power of their own.

**Ockham, William of:** A 14th-century English Franciscan friar, philosopher, and theologian, known for Occam's Razor.

**Omniscience:** The state of knowing everything.

**Ontological Argument:** An argument for the existence of God based on the concept of God as the greatest conceivable being.

**Open Question Argument:** An argument against moral naturalism, which claims that moral properties cannot be reduced to natural properties.

**Open Society:** A society characterized by tolerance, freedom of expression, and a diversity of opinions.

**Original Position:** A hypothetical situation in John Rawls's theory of justice, in which individuals choose principles of justice from behind a "veil of ignorance" about their own social position and personal characteristics.

**Ordinary Language Philosophy:** A philosophical movement that emphasizes the importance of everyday language in understanding philosophical problems.

**Other Minds Problem:** The philosophical problem of how we can know that other people have minds and conscious experiences.

**Ought Implies Can:** The principle that one is morally obligated to do something only if it is possible to do it.

**Overman:** In Nietzsche's philosophy, the superior individual who transcends conventional morality and creates their own values.

**Objectivity:** The state or quality of being objective, unbiased, or impartial.

**Omission:** A failure to act when there is a moral or legal obligation to do so.

# P

**Pacifism:** The belief that war and violence are unjustifiable and that all disputes should be settled by peaceful means.

**Pantheism:** The belief that God is identical with the universe, or that everything composes an all-encompassing, immanent God.

**Paradox:** A statement or proposition that seems self-contradictory or absurd but in reality expresses a possible truth.

**Particular:** A specific individual thing or entity.

**Paternalism:** The policy or practice on the part of people in positions of authority of restricting the freedom and responsibilities of those subordinate to them in the subordinates' supposed best interest.

**Personal Identity:** The philosophical problem of what makes a person numerically the same person over time.

**Phenomenology:** A philosophical movement that emphasizes the study of conscious experience from a first-person perspective.

**Physicalism:** The metaphysical view that everything that exists is physical or can be explained in terms of physical properties and laws.

**Plato:** An ancient Greek philosopher, student of Socrates, and teacher of Aristotle, known for his theory of Forms and his dialogues.



**Platonism:** The philosophy of Plato, or any similar philosophy that emphasizes the reality of abstract objects and the importance of reason.

**Political Philosophy:** The branch of philosophy that deals with the nature of government, justice, and the rights and duties of citizens.

**Possible Worlds:** A concept used in modal logic and metaphysics to refer to ways the world could have been.

**Pragmatism:** A philosophical tradition that emphasizes the practical consequences and applications of ideas and theories.

**Premise:** A proposition that is used as a basis for reasoning or argument.

**Presentism:** The view that only the present moment exists.

**Problem of Evil:** The philosophical problem of reconciling the existence of evil with the existence of an all-powerful, all-knowing, and benevolent God.

**Property:** A characteristic or attribute of a thing or person.

**Proposition:** The content or meaning of a declarative sentence.

**Psychological Egoism:** The descriptive view that all human actions are ultimately motivated by self-interest.

**Phenomenalism:** The view that physical objects do not exist as things in themselves but are collections or bundles of sense data.

**Panpsychism:** The view that consciousness, mind, or soul (psyche) is a universal and primordial feature of all things.

## Q

**Qualia:** The subjective or qualitative aspects of conscious experience, such as the redness of red or the pain of a headache.

**Quality:** The essential character or nature of something; a distinguishing attribute or characteristic.

**Quantum Mechanics:** A fundamental theory in physics that describes the physical properties of nature at the scale of atoms and subatomic particles.

**Quiddity:** The essence or nature of a thing that makes it what it is; whatness.

**Quine, Willard Van Orman:** An American philosopher and logician known for his contributions to philosophy of language, logic, and epistemology.

**Question-Begging:** A logical fallacy in which a term is used that assumes the truth of the conclusion being argued for.

**Quietism:** A religious philosophy that emphasizes passive contemplation and acceptance of divine will.

**Qualitative Research:** A research methodology that focuses on understanding the meaning and interpretation of social phenomena through non-numerical data.

**Quantifier:** A logical symbol that indicates the quantity of a particular thing or property, such as "all," "some," or "none."

**Quantity:** The amount or number of something.

**Quakerism:** A Christian movement that emphasizes the inner light of God and rejects formal creeds and rituals.

**Quantum Logic:** A non-classical logic used to reason about quantum systems.

**Quantum Entanglement:** A phenomenon in quantum physics in which two or more particles become linked together in such a way that they instantly affect each other's behavior, even when separated by vast distances.

**Quine-Putnam Indispensability Argument:** An argument for the existence of mathematical entities based on their indispensable role in scientific theories.

**Queer Theory:** A field of critical theory that challenges traditional notions of gender and sexuality.

# R

**Rationalism:** The philosophical view that reason is the chief source and test of knowledge.

**Realism:** The philosophical doctrine that universals or abstract concepts have an objective or absolute existence.

**Reason:** The capacity for consciously making sense of things, applying logic, establishing and verifying facts, changing or justifying practices, institutions, and beliefs based on new or existing information.

**Reductio ad Absurdum:** A form of argument in which a proposition is disproven by following its implications logically to an absurd conclusion.

**Relativism:** The doctrine that knowledge, truth, and morality exist in relation to culture, society, or historical context, and are not absolute.

**Res Cogitans:** Latin for "thinking thing," a term used by Descartes to describe the mind as a non-physical substance.

**Rule Utilitarianism:** A form of utilitarianism that says an action is right as it conforms to a rule that leads to the greatest good, or that "the rightness or wrongness of a particular action is a function of the correctness of the rule of which it is an instance."

**Representative Realism:** The philosophical view that we do not (and cannot) perceive the external world directly, but only know our ideas and interpretations of objects in the world.

**Rights:** Moral or legal entitlements to have or obtain something or to act in a certain way.

**Romanticism:** An intellectual movement that originated in Europe toward the end of the 18th century and emphasized emotion, individualism, and a rejection of Enlightenment rationalism.

**Radical Freedom:** The existentialist idea that humans are absolutely free to create their own meaning and values in life.

**Rationality:** The quality of being based on or in accordance with reason or logic.

**Rational Egoism:** The ethical theory that it is rational to act in one's own self-interest.

**Radical Skepticism:** The philosophical position that knowledge is impossible, or that we can never be certain of anything.

**Relational Ontology:** The philosophical view that relations between entities are as real as the entities themselves.

**Representative Democracy:** A system of government in which citizens elect officials to represent their interests and make decisions on their behalf.

**Rule of Law:** The principle that all people and institutions are subject to and accountable to law that is fairly applied and enforced.

**Res Extensa:** Latin for "extended thing," a term used by Descartes to describe the physical world as a substance extended in space.

**Ressentiment:** A French term used by Nietzsche to describe a deep-seated resentment and hostility towards others, often arising from a sense of powerlessness or inferiority.

**Retributive Justice:** A theory of justice that holds that the purpose of punishment is to give offenders what they deserve for their wrongdoing.

# S

**Skepticism:** A philosophical approach that questions the possibility of certainty in knowledge, advocating for a critical examination of all beliefs and claims.

**Solipsism:** The theory that only the self is known to exist and that the external world and other minds cannot be known and might not exist outside the mind.

**Subjectivism:** The doctrine that knowledge is merely subjective and that there is no external or objective truth.

**Structuralism:** An approach in various academic disciplines that explores the interrelationships within a system and the underlying structures that shape phenomena.

**Stoicism:** An ancient Greek philosophy that teaches the development of self-control and fortitude as a means to overcome destructive emotions.

**Synderesis:** A term in scholastic philosophy referring to the innate principle in the moral consciousness that directs a person to do good and avoid evil.

**Semiotics:** The study of signs and symbols and their use or interpretation, particularly in language and communication.

**Scholasticism:** A medieval school of philosophy that aimed to reconcile Christian theology with classical philosophy, particularly that of Aristotle.

**Simulacrum:** A representation or imitation of a person or thing; in postmodern philosophy, often used to describe a copy without an original.



**Scientism:** The belief that science and its methods are the only reliable ways to secure knowledge about the world.

**Sublime:** A concept in aesthetics and philosophy describing something that inspires awe and wonder, often because of its vastness or grandeur.

**Substance:** In metaphysics, the fundamental or underlying entity that exists independently and possesses qualities or properties.

**Spiritualism:** A belief system that posits the existence of spirits and their ability to communicate with the living, often through mediums.

**Sufficient Reason:** The principle that everything must have a reason or cause, used to explain the existence or nature of things.

**Syncretism:** The attempt to reconcile or combine different beliefs, often in religion or philosophy, into a new system.

**Social Contract:** A theory in political philosophy that individuals consent, either explicitly or implicitly, to surrender some of their freedoms and submit to the authority of the ruler or magistrate in exchange for protection of their remaining rights.

**Supervenience:** A philosophical concept where one set of properties (e.g., mental properties) is dependent on another set of properties (e.g., physical properties) in such a way that no change can occur in the former without a change in the latter.

**Sapience:** Wisdom or intelligence; the ability to think and act using knowledge, experience, understanding, common sense, and insight.

**Speculative Philosophy:** A branch of philosophy that seeks to construct a comprehensive, systematic account of reality, often involving abstract reasoning beyond empirical evidence.

**Synthetic a priori:** A term coined by Immanuel Kant referring to propositions that are universally true and informative about the world, yet not derived from experience but from pure reason.

# T

**Tabula Rasa:** A Latin phrase meaning "blank slate," used by John Locke to describe the mind at birth, before it is filled with experience.

**Tautology:** A statement that is true by virtue of its logical form, e.g., "All bachelors are unmarried men."

**Teleology:** The explanation of phenomena by the purpose they serve rather than by postulated causes.

**Theism:** Belief in the existence of a god or gods, especially belief in one god as creator of the universe, intervening in it and sustaining a personal relation to his creatures.

**Theodicy:** The vindication of divine goodness and providence in view of the existence of evil.

**Theory of Forms:** Plato's theory that there are perfect and unchanging forms or ideas, such as Goodness or Justice, that exist independently of the physical world.

**Thought Experiment:** A hypothetical scenario created to explore the implications of a theory or idea.

**Transcendental Idealism:** Kant's doctrine that knowledge is a synthesis of sensory data and a priori concepts imposed by the mind.

**Transhumanism:** The belief or theory that the human race can evolve beyond its current physical and mental limitations, especially by means of science and technology.

**Truth:** Conformity to fact or actuality; a statement proven to be or accepted as true.

**Turing Test:** A test of a machine's ability to exhibit intelligent behavior equivalent to, or indistinguishable from, that of a human.

**Teleological Argument:** An argument for the existence of God based on the perceived design or purpose in the universe.

**Transcendental Argument:** An argument that seeks to establish the necessary conditions for the possibility of experience or knowledge.

**Truthmaker Theory:** A theory in metaphysics that seeks to identify the entities that make propositions true.

**Teleological Suspension of the Ethical:** A concept in Kierkegaard's philosophy where faith allows one to transcend moral laws for a higher purpose.

**Truth-Conditional Semantics:** A theory of meaning that analyzes the meaning of sentences in terms of the conditions under which they would be true.

**Transcendental Phenomenology:** A philosophical method developed by Edmund Husserl that aims to describe the essential structures of consciousness.

**Theory-Ladenness of Observation:** The idea that scientific observations are influenced by the theoretical framework within which they are made.

**Testimonial Injustice:** A form of epistemic injustice in which a speaker's credibility is unjustly diminished due to prejudice or bias.

**Theological Noncognitivism:** A meta-ethical view that religious language, such as talk of God, is not fact-stating but expresses attitudes or commitments.

# U

**Universal:** A property or characteristic that can be applied to all members of a class or category.

**Universalizability:** A principle in ethics that states that a moral action is one that can be applied universally without contradiction.

**Utilitarianism:** An ethical theory that holds that the best action is the one that maximizes overall happiness or pleasure.

**Utopia:** An imagined place or state of things in which everything is perfect.

**Universals:** Abstract entities or qualities that can be instantiated in many particular things.

**Ultimate Reality:** The fundamental nature of reality, often considered in metaphysical and religious contexts.

**Utilitarianism:** An ethical theory that holds that the best action is the one that maximizes overall happiness or pleasure.

**Uncertainty Principle:** A principle in quantum mechanics that states that it is impossible to know both the position and momentum of a particle with perfect accuracy.

**Unmoved Mover:** In Aristotle's philosophy, the first cause of motion in the universe, itself unmoved.

**Utilitarian Calculus:** A method of calculating the overall happiness or pleasure that an action is likely to produce, used in utilitarianism to determine the moral worth of the action.

**Universal Grammar:** A theory proposed by Noam Chomsky that posits an innate grammatical structure in the human mind that allows children to learn language.

**Underdetermination of Theory by Data:** The idea that for any given set of data, there are multiple theories that can explain it equally well.

**Unity of Consciousness:** The philosophical problem of explaining how the different aspects of our conscious experience are unified into a single, coherent whole.

**Unconscious:** The part of the mind that is not directly accessible to conscious awareness.

**Ubiquity:** The state or capacity of being everywhere at the same time.

**Uniformity of Nature:** The principle that the laws of nature are the same throughout space and time.

**Universalizability Principle:** The moral principle that we should act only in ways that we would want everyone else to act in similar situations.

# V

**Validity:** A property of arguments in which the conclusion logically follows from the premises.

**Value Theory:** A branch of philosophy that studies the nature of values, including moral, aesthetic, and epistemic values.

**Verificationism:** The philosophical doctrine that the meaning of a proposition is determined by its method of verification or confirmation.

**Verisimilitude:** The degree to which a theory or hypothesis resembles the truth.

**Virtue Ethics:** An ethical theory that emphasizes the role of character and virtue in moral philosophy, rather than rules or consequences.

**Voluntarism:** The philosophical doctrine that the will is the primary or most fundamental faculty of the mind.

**Volition:** The faculty or power of using one's will.

**Virtue Epistemology:** An approach to epistemology that emphasizes the role of intellectual virtues, such as open-mindedness, intellectual courage, and intellectual humility, in the acquisition and justification of knowledge.

**Verification Principle:** A philosophical doctrine that holds that a statement is meaningful only if it is either empirically verifiable or tautological.



**Value Pluralism:** The view that there are multiple and incommensurable values.

**Verificationism:** The philosophical doctrine that the meaning of a proposition is determined by its method of verification or confirmation.

**Verstehen:** A German term used in social sciences to describe the process of understanding the meaning of human action from the actor's perspective.

**Vice:** A moral failing or bad habit.

**Virtue:** A moral excellence or admirable quality.

**Valid Argument:** An argument in which the conclusion logically follows from the premises.

**Verification:** The process of establishing the truth or accuracy of a statement or theory.

**Voluntarism:** The philosophical doctrine that the will is the primary or most fundamental faculty of the mind.

**Void:** In philosophy, the absence of being or existence.

**Virtue Theory:** An approach to ethics that emphasizes an individual's character as the key element of ethical thinking, rather than rules about the acts themselves or their consequences.

# W

**Wabi-sabi:** A Japanese aesthetic concept that finds beauty in imperfection, impermanence, and incompleteness.

**Weak AI:** Artificial intelligence that is designed to perform a specific task or set of tasks, rather than possessing general intelligence.

**Well-Being:** The state of being comfortable, healthy, or happy.

**Will to Power:** A concept in Nietzsche's philosophy, referring to the fundamental drive in all living beings to exert power and control over their environment.

**Wittgenstein, Ludwig:** An Austrian-British philosopher who made significant contributions to logic, philosophy of language, and philosophy of mind.

**Worldview:** A comprehensive conception or apprehension of the world especially from a specific standpoint.

**Wrong:** Not in accordance with what is morally right or good.

**Weltanschauung:** A German term for "worldview," referring to a comprehensive conception of the world and life.

**Weak Anthropic Principle:** The observation that the universe must be compatible with the existence of intelligent life, otherwise we wouldn't be here to observe it.

**Weak Supervenience:** A relationship between two sets of properties, where a change in the base properties necessitates a change in the supervenient properties, but not vice versa.

**Will to Believe:** The idea that, in certain cases, it is permissible to believe in a proposition without sufficient evidence, based on a desire for the proposition to be true.

**Whitehead, Alfred North:** An English mathematician and philosopher who developed process philosophy, which emphasizes the dynamic nature of reality.

**World-Soul:** A concept in Platonism and Neoplatonism, referring to a universal soul that animates the universe.

**Worldview Naturalism:** The philosophical view that the natural world is all that exists and that supernatural explanations are unnecessary.

**Weak Nuclear Force:** One of the four fundamental forces of nature, responsible for radioactive decay.

**Will Theory of Rights:** The view that rights are derived from the will or autonomy of individuals.

**Weltgeist:** A German term meaning "world spirit," used by Hegel to refer to the historical process through which reason unfolds and realizes itself.

**Weak Verificationism:** A modified version of verificationism that allows for meaningful statements that are not directly verifiable but have indirect empirical consequences.

**Wrongful Life:** A legal claim brought on behalf of a child with a disability, alleging that the child's life is so full of suffering that it would have been better if they had never been born.

# X

**Xenophobia:** Fear or hatred of foreigners or strangers, or of anything foreign or strange.

**Xenophanes:** A pre-Socratic Greek philosopher who criticized anthropomorphism in religion and proposed a more abstract conception of the divine.

**Xenia:** The ancient Greek concept of hospitality, generosity, and courtesy shown to strangers or guests.

**Xenocracy:** Government by foreigners or strangers.

**Xenoglossy:** The purported ability to speak a language that one has not learned.

**X-Phi:** The experimental philosophy movement that uses empirical methods, such as surveys and experiments, to investigate philosophical questions.

**X-Risk:** An existential risk that could lead to the extinction of humanity or the permanent and drastic destruction of its potential for desirable future development.

**Xunzi:** A Confucian philosopher who believed that human nature is fundamentally evil and requires education and cultivation to become good.

**Xenial:** Relating to or characterized by hospitality or generosity to strangers or guests.

**Xenology:** The study of extraterrestrial life and civilizations.

**Xenograft:** A tissue or organ transplant from one species to another.

**X-Ray Crystallography:** A technique used to determine the atomic and molecular structure of a crystal.

**X-Linked:** Relating to or denoting a gene or trait that is carried on the X chromosome.

**Xenobiotic:** A chemical substance found within an organism that is not naturally produced or expected to be present within the organism.

# Y

**Yin and Yang:** In Chinese philosophy, complementary forces that interact to form a dynamic system in which the whole is greater than the assembled parts. Yin is the receptive and Yang the active principle, seen in all forms of change and difference such as the annual cycle (winter and summer), the landscape (north-facing shade and south-facing brightness), sexual coupling (female and male), the formation of both women and men as characters (passive and assertive), and sociopolitical history (disorder and order).

**Youlou:** In Chinese philosophy, a type of wandering, carefree sage who rejects social norms and conventions in favor of a life of freedom and spontaneity.

**Yoga:** A Hindu spiritual and ascetic discipline, a part of which, including breath control, simple meditation, and the adoption of specific bodily postures, is widely practiced for health and relaxation.

**Yukti:** A Sanskrit term for reasoning or logic, used in Indian philosophy to refer to a method of inquiry and argumentation.

**Yuga:** In Hinduism, a cycle of time, typically consisting of four ages (Satya Yuga, Treta Yuga, Dwapara Yuga, and Kali Yuga) that repeat cyclically.

**Ylem:** In cosmology, the primordial matter that existed before the Big Bang.

**Yaltabaath:** In Gnosticism, the demiurge, a lesser deity who created the material world and is often associated with evil or ignorance.

**Yang Zhu:** A Chinese philosopher who lived during the Warring States period and is known for his hedonistic philosophy, advocating for the pursuit of individual pleasure and self-interest.

**Yijing:** Also known as the I Ching or Book of Changes, a Chinese divination text that is based on a system of 64 hexagrams and is used for philosophical and spiritual guidance.

**Yama:** In Hinduism and Buddhism, the god of death and the lord of justice.

**Yasna:** The principal act of worship in Zoroastrianism, consisting of the recitation of hymns and the offering of sacrifices.

**Yathābhūtam:** A Sanskrit term meaning "as it truly is," used in Buddhism to refer to the ultimate nature of reality.

**Yahweh:** The national god of ancient Israel and Judah, represented and worshiped as the only god.

**Yggdrasil:** In Norse cosmology, a giant ash tree that connects the nine worlds and is considered a symbol of the universe.

**Yellow Emperor:** A legendary Chinese sovereign and culture hero who is credited with inventing many aspects of Chinese civilization, such as medicine, music, and writing.

**Yantra:** In Hinduism, a geometric diagram used for meditation and ritual purposes.

**Yuga Dharma:** In Hinduism, the moral and social duties that are appropriate for each of the four yugas (ages).



**Yuga Avatar:** In Hinduism, an incarnation of Vishnu who appears in each of the four yugas to restore dharma (cosmic order).

**Yuga Cycle:** In Hinduism, the cycle of four yugas (ages) that repeats endlessly.

**Yugadi:** The Hindu New Year's Day, celebrated on the first day of the Chaitra month.

## Z

**Zeitgeist:** A German term meaning "spirit of the times," referring to the dominant intellectual, cultural, and moral climate of an era.

**Zen Buddhism:** A school of Mahayana Buddhism that emphasizes meditation, intuition, and the realization of enlightenment.

**Zeno of Elea:** A pre-Socratic Greek philosopher known for his paradoxes, which challenge common sense notions of motion and change.

**Zoroastrianism:** An ancient Iranian religion and philosophy founded by Zoroaster, emphasizing the cosmic struggle between good and evil.

**Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD):** A concept in educational psychology, developed by Lev Vygotsky, that refers to the difference between what a learner can do without help and what they can achieve with guidance and support.

**Zen koan:** A paradoxical anecdote or riddle used in Zen Buddhism to provoke doubt and test a student's progress in Zen practice.

**Zombie Argument:** A philosophical thought experiment that challenges physicalism by imagining a being that is physically identical to a human but lacks consciousness.

**Zero-Sum Game:** A situation in game theory in which one person's gain is equivalent to another's loss, so the net change in wealth or benefit is zero.

**Zeno's Paradoxes:** A set of philosophical problems devised by Zeno of Elea to support Parmenides's doctrine that contrary to the evidence of one's senses, the belief in plurality and change is mistaken, and in particular that motion is nothing but an illusion.

**Zero-Sum Fallacy:** The mistaken belief that in any interaction, one person's gain must come at the expense of another's loss.

**Zetetic:** Proceeding by inquiry or investigation.

**Zoocentrism:** The belief that animals have intrinsic value and moral standing, and that humans have a duty to respect and protect them.

**Zoon Politikon:** A Greek term used by Aristotle to describe human beings as "political animals," meaning that we are naturally social and inclined to live in communities.