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LIST OF PHILOSOPHICAL TERMS

Term		Meaning		
		The belief in absolute truths or principles		
Absolutism		that apply universally, regardless of context or		
		individual belief.		
		In metaphysics (Aristotle), a non-essential		
Accident		attribute of a substance; a property that the		
		substance can lose without ceasing to be that		
		substance.		
		In metaphysics, the state of being real or		
Actuality		currently existing, as opposed to having the		
		potential to exist. (See also Potentiality).		
		The view that the existence of God, the divine,		
Agnosticism		or the supernatural is unknown or		
		unknowable.		
		Ancient Greek for "unconcealment" or		
Aletheia		"disclosure", often translated as truth; a key		
		concept in Heidegger's philosophy.		
		A state of feeling estranged, separated, or		
Alienation	2 (T)	disconnected from oneself, from others, or		
	MB/	from the products of one's labor (central to		
		Marx and Existentialism).		
A Priori		Knowledge or justification that is independent		
		of experience (e.g., mathematical truths).		
A Posteriori		Knowledge or justification that is dependent		
		on experience or empirical evidence.		
Aesthetics		The branch of philosophy dealing with the		
		nature of art, beauty, and taste.		
Altruism		The principle or practice of unselfish concern		
Altruism		for or devotion to the welfare of others.		

	A statement that is true solely by virtue of		
Analytic Statement	the meaning of its words (e.g., "All circles		
	are round").		
	A contradiction between two principles or		
Antinomy	conclusions that seem equally logical and		
	well-founded; central to Kant's work.		
	A state of puzzlement or intellectual		
Aporia	perplexity; a difficulty encountered in		
Aporta	argument where no satisfactory conclusion is		
	reached (often in Plato's dialogues).		
	In logic, a series of premises intended to		
Argument	determine the degree of truth of a		
	conclusion.		
Atomism	The ancient theory that all matter is composed		
Atomism	of indivisible, minute particles called atoms.		
	The philosophical study of value , including		
Axiology	both ethics (moral value) and aesthetics		
	(artistic value).		
	The school of thought that holds that		
Behaviorism	psychological phenomena should be		
Bellaviorisiii	understood only in terms of observable		
	behavior, not mental states.		
MR	Kant's central ethical rule: act only according		
Categorical Imperative	to that maxim whereby you can at the		
Categorical Imperative	same time will that it should become a		
	universal law.		
	The relationship between cause and effect; the		
Causality (or Causation)	belief that every event is necessarily		
causainty (or causaint)	brought about by a preceding event or		
	state.		
	A theory that a proposition is true if it coheres		
Coherence Theory of Truth	with or is consistent with other		
constant index, or readily	propositions accepted as true within a		
1	system.		

		Ethical theories that judge the rightness or		
Componentialian		wrongness of an action based on the		
Consequentialism		consequences it produces (e.g.,		
		Utilitarianism).		
		Something that is true but could have been		
Contingent		otherwise ; its truth is dependent on certain		
		facts or conditions.		
Correspondence Theory of Truth		A theory that a proposition is true if it		
		corresponds to a fact or state of affairs in		
		the world.		
Cosmology		The study of the nature, origin, and		
		evolution of the universe as an ordered		
		system.		
	7	German for "being-there" or "existence"; a		
Dasein		term used by Heidegger to refer to the being of		
Dasein	humans, characterized by its temporal and			
		historical nature.		
		A method of reasoning where the conclusion		
Deduction		is guaranteed to be true if the premises		
		are true.		
		A method of critical analysis (Derrida) that		
Deconstruction	0 (17)	seeks to uncover the unstable, often		
MBA		contradictory, relationships between text and meaning.		
		Ethical theories that determine the rightness of		
Deontology		an action based on duty, rules, or moral		
		norms , regardless of the consequences.		
		The view that all events, including human		
Determinism		actions and choices, are ultimately		
		necessitated by causes external to the will.		
		A method of philosophical argument that		
Dialectic		involves contradiction, or a debate		
Dialectic		between opposing ideas (thesis and		
		antithesis) to reach a higher truth (synthesis).		

Doubt systematically employed by Descartes as a to for establishing certainty (Methodologic Doubt). The view that reality is ultimately compose of two distinct kinds of substance, typical mind and matter. The radical claim that people's common sense understanding of the mind (for psychology) is false and that some mentalism.	ed y		
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Eliminative Materialism sense understanding of the mind (for psychology) is false and that some men			
psychology) is false and that some men	olk		
psychology) is false and that some men			
	tal		
states simply do not exist.			
The meta-ethical view that ethical sentence	es		
Emotivism merely express emotions (e.g., "Murder	merely express emotions (e.g., "Murder is		
wrong" means "Boo to murder!").	wrong" means "Boo to murder!").		
The theory that all knowledge is primar	ily		
derived from sense experience.			
The branch of philosophy concerned with t	he		
Epistemology nature of knowledge, justification, a	nd		
belief.			
Latin for "To be is to be perceived"; t	he		
Esse est percipi defining principle of Bishop Berkele	defining principle of Bishop Berkeley's		
subjective idealism.	subjective idealism.		
The inherent, necessary, and defining set	The inherent, necessary, and defining set of		
Essence properties that makes an entity what			
Essence properties that makes an entity what fundamentally is.			
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fundamentally is. The branch of philosophy that examines more concepts such as right and wrong, good a bad. A philosophical theory that emphasizes to existence of the individual person as a frank and responsible agent determining their or and responsible agent.	ral nd he ee wn		

		The view that faith is independent of		
Fideism		reason, or superior to reason, as a means		
		of arriving at religious truth.		
		The ethical theory that pleasure is the		
Hedonism		highest good and the proper aim of human		
		life.		
		The theory and methodology of interpreting		
Hermeneutics		texts, especially philosophical or religious		
		texts.		
		Marx's theory that societies develop through		
Historical Materialism		class struggle driven by changes in their		
		economic base (material conditions).		
		The idea (David Hume) that all genuine		
Hume's Fork		knowledge claims are either relations of ideas		
11411110 0 1 0 111		(mathematics, logic) or matters of fact		
		(empirical sciences).		
		A proposed explanation made on the basis		
Hypothesis		of limited evidence as a starting point for		
		further investigation.		
		The group of philosophies that assert that		
Idealism		reality, or reality as we can know it, is		
	2.6	fundamentally mental or immaterial.		
	MB/	A method of reasoning where the premises		
Induction		provide strong, but not conclusive,		
		evidence for the truth of the conclusion.		
		A concept or piece of knowledge that is		
Innate Idea		supposedly present in the mind at birth , not		
		acquired through experience.		
		The view that concepts and theories are merely		
Instrumentalism		useful tools for explaining phenomena,		
		rather than claims about reality.		
Turking.		The philosophical concept of fairness ,		
Justice		righteousness, and equality in the		
		distribution of goods, services, and treatment.		

	The philosophical system of Immanuel Kant,		
Kantianism	noted for the Categorical Imperative in		
Kantianisiii	ethics and the distinction between noumenal		
	and phenomenal reality.		
	Greek term for "reason, word, or order"; in		
Logos	philosophy, it refers to the rational structure of		
	the universe or the principle of reason.		
	The philosophical view that everything that		
Materialism	exists is ultimately matter and that all		
1.000.10.10	phenomena are the result of material		
	interactions.		
	The branch of philosophy concerned with the		
Metaphysics	nature of being, existence, and the world		
	(e.g., substance, causality, time).		
Monism	The view that reality is ultimately one		
	unified thing or substance.		
	The view that the natural world is all that		
Naturalism	exists and that all phenomena can be		
	explained by natural causes and laws.		
Necessary	Something that must be true ; its negation is		
	impossible.		
	The rejection of all religious and moral		
Nihilism MBA	principles, often in the belief that life is		
	meaningless.		
	The philosophical position that universals		
Nominalism	(general or abstract terms) are merely		
	names or words, rather than corresponding to		
	real things.		
	A term used by Kant to describe the 'thing-in-		
Noumenon	itself,' or reality as it exists independently of		
	human experience and perception. (Contrasted		
	with Phenomenon).		
Ontology	The branch of metaphysics dealing with the		
	nature of being or existence.		

	A moral term indicating duty or obligation;
Ought	central to the is-ought problem (Hume)
Ought	which asks whether one can derive what <i>ought</i>
	to be from what <i>is</i> .
	A distinct set of concepts, theories, and
Paradigm	research methods that constitute a
	disciplinary matrix (T. S. Kuhn).
	Relating to the school of Aristotle, whose
Peripatetic	students often walked around while
	debating.
	A term used by Kant to describe the 'thing as
Phenomenon	it appears' to us, shaped by our senses and
	understanding. (Contrasted with Noumenon).
	The philosophical study of the structures of
Phenomenology	experience and consciousness as
	experienced from a first-person point of view.
	The view that reality or ultimate truth is
Pluralism	composed of many fundamentally
Pluralism	different substances or principles.
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Pluralism Positivism	different substances or principles. The philosophical system (Comte) that holds that every rationally justifiable assertion
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Positivism Potentiality Pragmatism Predicament of the Observer	different substances or principles. The philosophical system (Comte) that holds that every rationally justifiable assertion can be scientifically verified or is capable of logical or mathematical proof. The possibility that something can be changed into actuality (Aristotle). A philosophical tradition that holds that the truth or meaning of theories lies in their practical consequences or utility. The problem of establishing objective reality when the act of observation itself affects the observed phenomenon. Individual instances of subjective,
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		The theory that reason rather than		
Rationalism		experience is the foundation of certainty		
		in knowledge.		
		A method of proving a claim by assuming the		
Reductio ad absurdum		opposite is true and showing that this		
Reductio au absurdum		assumption leads to a contradiction or an		
		absurd conclusion.		
Relativism		The view that knowledge, truth, and		
		morality exist in relation to culture,		
		society, or context, and are not absolute.		
Skepticism		A philosophical position that seriously		
		questions the possibility of knowledge or		
		certainty in a given area.		
Solipsism		The philosophical idea that only one's own		
		mind is sure to exist.		
		An ancient Greek philosopher or teacher known		
Sophist		for rhetorical skill , often employing clever but		
		fallacious arguments (pejorative connotation).		
		In metaphysics, the underlying ,		
Substance		fundamental reality that possesses		
		properties; that which exists in itself and not in		
		another.		
	MBA	A philosophical relation where a set of		
		properties (the supervenient) is dependent on		
Supervenience		and determined by another set of		
		properties (the base). (Used often in		
		philosophy of mind).		
		Kant's controversial claim that some		
Combbatic A Delani		statements are both non-analytic		
Synthetic A Priori		(synthetic) and knowable independently		
		of experience (a priori) (e.g., "Every event		
		has a cause").		

		A statement whose truth depends on both the		
Synthetic Statement		meaning of the words and how the world		
		actually is (empirical confirmation required).		
		Latin for "blank slate," used by Empiricists to		
Tabula Rasa		describe the mind before it has acquired		
		knowledge through sense experience.		
		The study of ends or purposes ; the		
Teleology		philosophical view that everything has a final		
		goal or purpose.		
Transcendental		Relating to the conditions necessary for		
		knowledge or experience to be possible		
		(Kant).		
		A general term or concept that can be		
Universal		predicated of many particular things (e.g.,		
Universal	redness is the universal shared by all red			
		objects).		
		The ethical theory that the right action is the		
Utilitarianism		one that maximizes utility , usually defined as		
Utilitarianism	that which produces the greatest good for the			
		greatest number.		
		The property of appearing true or real; the		
Verisimilitude	2 (T)	concept of being "truth-like" (used in		
	MBA	philosophy of science).		
Weltanschauung		German for "worldview"; a particular		
		philosophy of life or conception of the world.		
		A central concept in Nietzsche's philosophy,		
Will to Power		describing the fundamental driving force of		
		existence as a striving for self-mastery and		
		overcoming.		
		German for "spirit of the age"; the		
Zeitgeist		intellectual, moral, and cultural climate of an		
		era.		

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A set of philosophical problems (Achilles and the Tortoise, the Arrow) that argue against the possibility of **motion**.



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