



# PHILOSOPHY (CLASS 7)

**BY: DR. MUHAMMAD RIZWAN**

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# Philosophy

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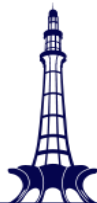
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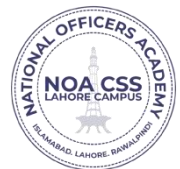


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## Basic Concepts of Sartre's Existentialism-1

- Jean-Paul Charles Aymard Sartre is one of the most important philosophers of all time. Despite his work garnering considerable flak over the years, his theories on existentialism and freedom cement his place among the most influential Western philosophers of the 20th-century and beyond.
- **Jean-Paul Sartre believed that human beings live in constant anguish, not solely because life is miserable, but because we are 'condemned to be free'. While the circumstances of our birth and upbringing are beyond our control**, he reasons that once we become self-aware (and we all do eventually), we have to make choices — **choices that define our very 'essence'.**



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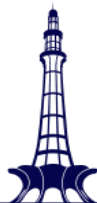


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## Basic Concepts of Sartre's Existentialism-2

- This lack of pre-defined purpose along with an 'absurd' existence that presents to us infinite choices is what Sartre attributes to the “anguish of freedom”.
- **With nothing to restrict us, we have the choice to take actions to become who we want to be and lead the life we want to live.**
- According to Sartre, each choice we make defines us while at the same time revealing to us what we think a human being should be. **And this incredible burden of responsibility that the free man has to bear is what downgrades him to constant suffering.**



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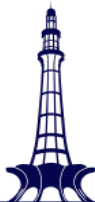


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## Basic Concepts of Sartre's Existentialism-3

- Sartre's theory of existentialism states that “existence precedes essence”, that is only **by existing and acting a certain way do we give meaning to our lives.**
- According to him, there is **1. no fixed design for how a human being should be** and **2. no God to give us a purpose.** Therefore, **the burden for defining ourselves, and by extension humanity, falls squarely on our shoulders.**



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## Martin Heidegger's Existentialism-1

- His *magnum opus Being and Time* is an investigation into the **meaning of Being** as that manifests itself through the human being, *Dasein* (German: *da* "there"; *sein* "to be") (*presence, to be there*).
- Heidegger uses the expression *Dasein* to refer to the experience of being that is peculiar to human beings. Thus it is a form of being that is aware of and must confront such issues as **personhood, mortality and the dilemma or paradox of living in relationship with other humans while being ultimately alone with oneself.**
- *Dasein* for Heidegger can be a way of being involved with and caring for the immediate world in which one lives, while always remaining aware of the contingent element of that involvement, of the priority of the world to the self, and of the evolving nature of the self itself.
- Heidegger considered that language, everyday curiosity, logical systems, and common beliefs obscure *Dasein's* nature from itself. Authentic choice means turning away from the collective world of Them, to face *Dasein*, one's individuality, one's own limited life-span, one's own being. **Heidegger thus intended the concept of *Dasein* to provide a stepping stone in the questioning of what it means to be—to have one's own being, one's own death, one's own truth.**



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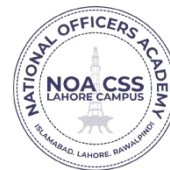
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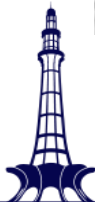
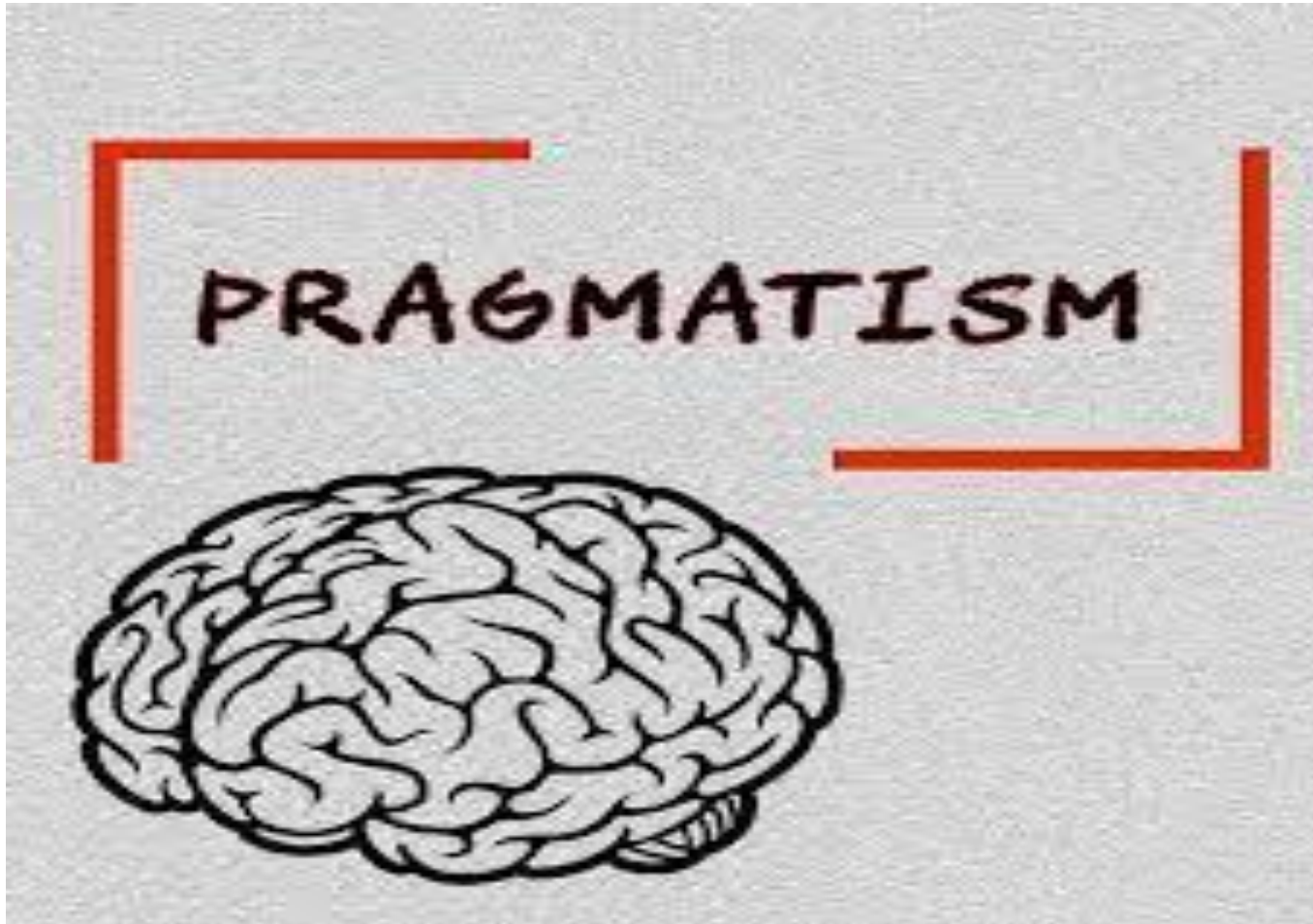


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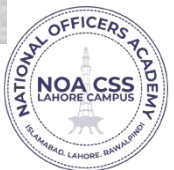


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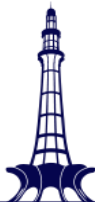
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## What is?

### PRAGMATISM

- Pragmatism is the practical approach to problems.
- Greek word “**Pragma**” which means activity or the work done.
- Pragmatists believe that reality is constantly changing and that we learn best through applying our experiences and thoughts to problems, as they arise.



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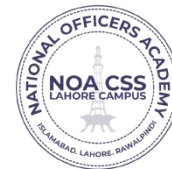
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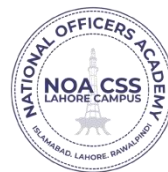
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# Charles Senders Pierce-1

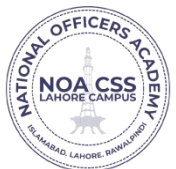
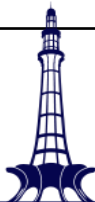
- Pragmatism is a principle of inquiry and an account of meaning first proposed by C. S. Peirce in the 1870s. The crux of Peirce's pragmatism is that for **any statement to be meaningful, it must have practical bearings.**
- Every **concept** must have a practical connection with every day life so that it can be experientially justified [and] it must also have a **definition.**  
[**Connection and Definition**]

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## Charles Senders Pierce-Three Stages

<p>The <b>first grade</b> of clarity about a <b>concept is to have an unreflective understanding of it in everyday experience.</b></p>	<p>If I am able to <b>identify vinegar</b> and use the concept appropriately in my everyday experiences</p>
<p>The <b>second grade</b> of clarity is to have, or be capable of providing, a <b>definition</b> of the concept.</p>	<p>ability to <b>define “vinegar”</b> as a diluted form of acetic acid, which is sharp to the taste</p>
<p>The <b>third grade</b> is to have a full understanding of some concept we must not only be familiar with it in day to day encounters, and be able to offer a definition of it, we must also know what <b>effects to expect from holding that concept to be true.</b></p>	<p>A list of <b>conditional propositions</b> can be derived which indicate what to expect from actions upon, and interactions with, this concept. So, for instance, “vinegar is acetic acid” would lead me to form the expectation that <b>“If vinegar is acetic acid, then if I dip litmus paper into it, it will turn red.”</b></p>



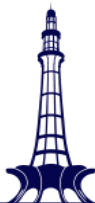


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## William James

- James explains that pragmatism is no more than **the habit of always seeing an alternative**, if not taking the usual for granted; [...] of imagining foreign states of mind”.
- “Pragmatism is willing to take anything, to follow **either logic or the senses**, and to count the humblest and most personal experiences”.
- **“Theoretic truth** must at all times come before practical application.” Nevertheless, theoretic truth remains **irrelevant unless it fits the purpose in hand.”**



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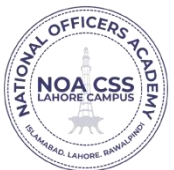
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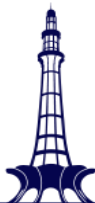


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# John Dewey

- John Dewey developed a **pragmatic theory of inquiry** to provide intelligent methods for social progress. He **believed that the logic and attitude of successful scientific inquiries, properly conceived, could be fruitfully applied to morals and politics.**
- Dewey argued that philosophy had become an overly technical and intellectualistic discipline. He sought to reconnect philosophy with the mission of education-for-living (**philosophy as “the general theory of education”**).



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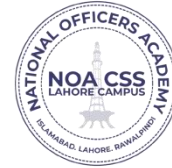




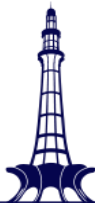
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## Richard Rorty



- He starts by examining the so-called mind-body problem and examining the nature of knowledge. Rorty stakes a claim that **one cannot distinguish between an external world that is real and what is added by the mind; therefore, knowledge must be “a matter of conversation and social practice”**
- In his book, *Philosophy and the Mirror of Nature* based upon closely related essays collected in *Consequences of Pragmatism*. Rorty's **principal** target is the **philosophical idea of knowledge as representation, as a mental mirroring of a mind-external world.**



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## The Routledge Companion to **Postmodernism**

Edited by Stuart Sim



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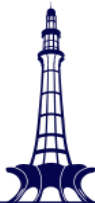


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# Postmodernism

- Postmodern philosophy is characterized by broad skepticism or relativism and a general suspicion of reason. It also broadly asserts that **Western intellectual and cultural norms** and values are a product of, or are in some sense influenced by, the ideology of dominant or elite groups and at least indirectly serve their interests.



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## Main Focus

- Many postmodernists hold one or more of the following views:
- (1) there is no objective reality;
- (2) there is no scientific or historical truth (objective truth);
- (3) science and technology (and even reason and logic) are not vehicles of human progress but suspect instruments of established power;
- (4) reason and logic are not universally valid;
- (5) there is no such thing as human nature (human behavior and psychology are socially determined or constructed);
- (6) language does not refer to a reality outside itself;
- (7) there is no certain knowledge; and
- (8) no general theory of the natural or social world can be valid or true (all are illegitimate “metanarratives”).



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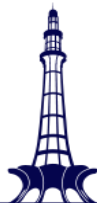
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# Jean-François Lyotard

- Lyotard introduced the term 'postmodernism', which was previously only used by art critics, into philosophy and social sciences, with the following observation: **"Simplifying to the extreme, I define postmodern as disbelief towards metanarratives."**
- Lyotard criticizes metanarratives such as reductionism and teleological notions of human history such as those of the Enlightenment and **Marxism**, arguing that they have become invalid because of technological progress in the areas of communication, mass media and computer science.



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## Jacques Derrida

- Jacques **Derrida** , a French philosopher, was well known for his controversial approach to understanding the world, the deconstruction method, and was a major contributor to **postmodernism**. The deconstruction method is a process of criticizing literary texts, philosophical texts, and political theories. **Deconstruction is a way of understanding how something was created, usually things like art, books, poems and other writing. Deconstruction is breaking something down into smaller parts. Deconstruction looks at the smaller parts that were used to create an object.**
- [**Deconstruction Theory**]It emphasizes the dominance of one particular way of thinking over others, and contradicts the **idea** of fixed meaning, overturning, and therefore exposing, the existence of the twofold and destabilizing previously fixed categories of understanding. **Deconstruction instead places the emphasis on appearance, or suggests, at least, that essence is to be found in appearance.**



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## Poem Deconstruction – Snow

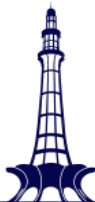
### Snow

By Frederick Seidel

Snow is what it does.  
It falls and it stays and it goes.  
It melts and it is here somewhere.  
We all will get there.

Source: Poetry (September 2012).

- Look at Symbolism of snow to extract the opposite:
  - White
  - Cold
  - Winter
- Usually symbolizing death so the opposite could be life.
- This poem then could be talking about the Rebirth of humans in religion.



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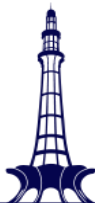


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# Michel Foucault

- **Michel Foucault** is the exemplary figure of French **postmodernism** which is characterized by an originality in his ideas, who made an extraordinary contribution with his work.
- **Foucault's** critique of modernity and humanism, along with his proclamation of the '**death of man**' [**Experience has shown that the human sciences, in their development, led to the disappearance of man rather than to his apotheosis (the highest point).**] and development of new perspectives on society, knowledge, discourse, and power, has made him a major source of **postmodern** thought.



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