



PHILOSOPHY (CLASS 3)

BY: DR. MUHAMMAD RIZWAN

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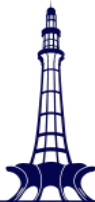
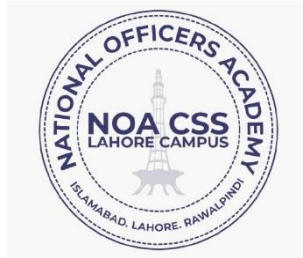
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Philosophy

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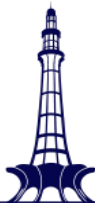
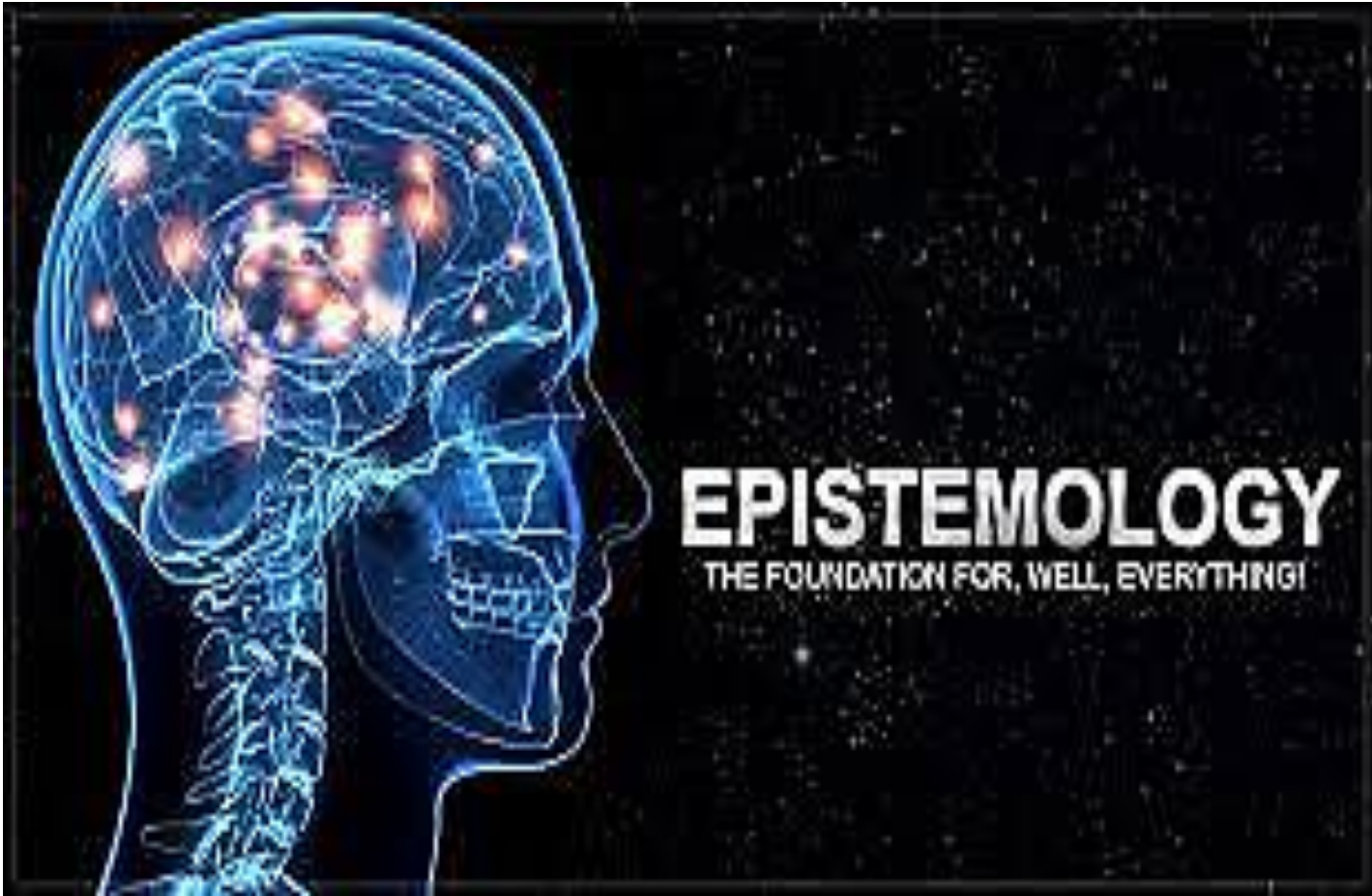
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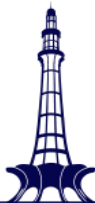
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Epistemology

- **Epistemology** is the branch of philosophy concerned with knowledge. Epistemologists study the nature, origin, and scope of knowledge, epistemic justification, the rationality of belief, and various related issues. Epistemology is considered one of the four main branches of philosophy.
- It is sub divided in ***a priori*** (Rationalism-Reasoning) and ***a posteriori*** (Empiricism-Experience)

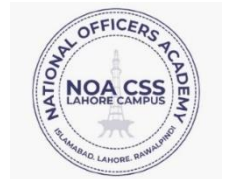


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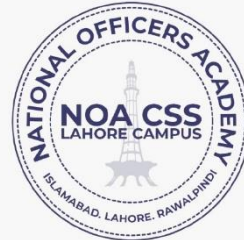
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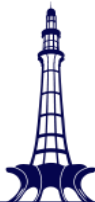


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Rationalism



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Rationalism

- **Rationalism** is the philosophical view that knowledge is **acquired through reason**, without the aid of the senses.
- Rationalism is defined as a methodology or a theory **"in which the criterion of the truth is not sensory but intellectual and deductive"**.
- Rationalists believed that reality has an **intrinsically logical structure**. Because of this, the rationalists argued that **certain truths exist** and that the **intellect can directly grasp these truths**.

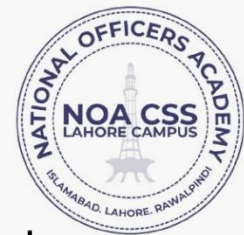


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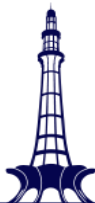
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Plato

- Plato held **rational insight to a very high standard**, as is seen in his works such as Meno and The Republic. He taught on the **Theory of Forms** (or the Theory of Ideas) which asserts that the highest and most fundamental kind of reality is not the material world of change known to us through sensation, but rather the abstract, non-material (but substantial) world of forms (or ideas).
- **Plato** is a **rationalist** because he thinks that we have innate knowledge of the **Forms** [mathematical **objects and concepts** (triangles, equality, largeness), **moral concepts** (goodness, beauty, virtue, piety), and possibly color.

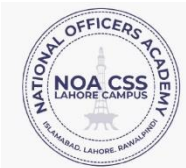


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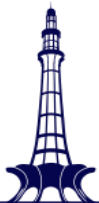
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Descartes-1

- **Descartes** was the first of the **modern rationalists** and has been dubbed the 'Father of Modern Philosophy.
- Descartes thought that only knowledge of eternal truths – including the truths of mathematics, and the epistemological and metaphysical foundations of the sciences – **could be attained by reason alone.**
- since conscious sense experience can be the **cause of illusions**, then sense experience itself can be doubtable. As a result, Descartes deduced that a rational pursuit of truth should doubt every belief about sensory reality.



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Descartes-2

- Descartes developed a method to attain truths according to which **nothing that cannot be recognized by the intellect (or reason) can be classified as knowledge. These truths are gained "without any sensory experience,"** according to Descartes. Truths that are attained by reason are broken down into elements that intuition can grasp, which, through a purely deductive process, will result in clear truths about reality.
- His famous dictum, ***cogito ergo sum*** or **"I think, therefore I am"**, is a conclusion reached *a priori* i.e., prior to any kind of experience on the matter. The simple meaning is that doubting one's existence, in and of itself, proves that an "I" exists to do the thinking. **[Methodic doubts]**

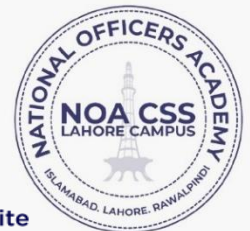


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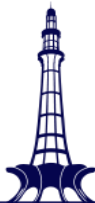
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Spinoza-1

- Spinoza radically reconfigures traditional notions of God, nature, and morality. Rejecting all **sensory inputs as mere "random experience"** that do not reveal the nature of the world, he says there is only **one substance**, which he strikingly calls "**God or nature.**"
- All existing things must be understood to be merely modifications of that single substance, not substances in their own right.
- The distinctive character of Spinoza's epistemological rationalism is rooted in his principle that **"the order and connection of ideas is the order and connection of things"**.

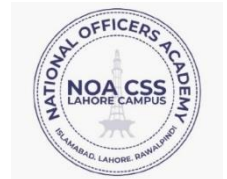


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Spinoza-2

- Spinoza's argument for substance monism (laid out in the first fifteen propositions of the *Ethics*) has no essential basis in sensory experience; it proceeds through rational argumentation and the deployment of rational principles.
- "In Nature there cannot be two or more substances of the same nature or attribute."
- **Human minds cannot qualify as substances**, since human minds all share the same nature or attribute, that is, thought. In Spinoza's philosophy, **human minds are actually themselves properties – Spinoza calls them "modes" – of a more basic, infinite substance.**



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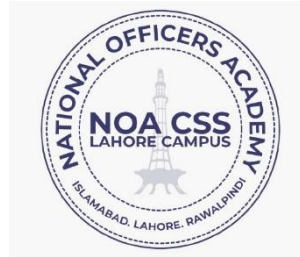
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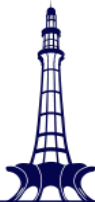


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Empiricism



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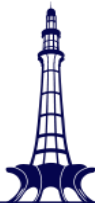


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Empiricism

- Empiricism is the idea that the **origin** of all knowledge is **sense experience**. It emphasizes the role of **experience** and **evidence**, especially **sensory perception**, in the formation of ideas, while **discounting** the notion of **innate ideas**, and argues that the **only** knowledge humans can have is **a posteriori** (i.e. based on experience).
- It relies on **induction** or **inductive reasoning** in order to build a more **complex** body of knowledge from these direct observations.



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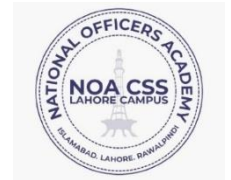
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John Locke

- Locke argued in his "*An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*" of 1690 that the mind is a **tabula rasa (blank slate)** on which experiences leave their marks, and therefore denied that humans have innate ideas or that anything is knowable without reference to experience.
- However, he also held that some knowledge (e.g. knowledge of God's existence) could be arrived at through intuition and reasoning alone.

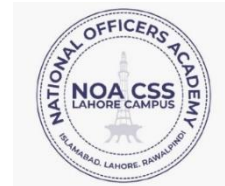


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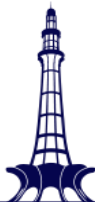
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David Hume

- David Hume argued that all of human knowledge can be divided into two categories: **relations of ideas** (e.g. mathematical and logical propositions) and **matters of fact** (e.g. propositions involving some **contingent** observation of the world, such as "**the sun rises in the East**"), and that ideas are derived from our "**impressions**" or sensations.
- He argued that even the most **basic beliefs** about the natural world, or even in the existence of the **self**, cannot be conclusively established by **reason**, but we accept them anyway because of their basis in **instinct** and **custom**.



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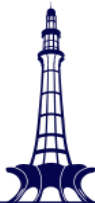
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Berkeley-1

- George Berkeley was both an **empiricist** and an **idealist**. ... This means that Berkeley believed there are no real material qualities of an **object**, that what are described as objects or physical matter are actually collections of ideas. These ideas originate in the mind of God.
- His **subjective idealism** propounds the view that **reality consists exclusively of minds and their ideas**, and that individuals can only directly know **sensations and ideas**, not the objects themselves. The position that the **mind** is the only thing that can be known to exist (and that knowledge of anything outside the mind is unjustified).



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Berkeley-2

- Berkeley believed that, for **an idea to exist, and for someone to be aware of it**, were essentially the same thing ("to be is to be perceived"), and that it was only **through experience** that we can know about these ideas.
- There exists an **infinite spirit (God)** and a multitude of **finite spirits (humans)**, and we are in communication with God via our **experience**. Thus, what we take to be our whole experience of the world is analogous to God's language, God's way of talking to us, and all the laws of science and Nature we see around us are similar to the grammar of God's language.

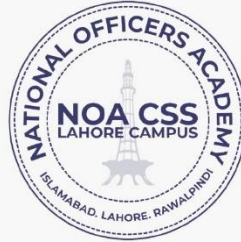


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Transcendental Idealism



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Transcendental Idealism-1

- **Transcendental idealism** is a doctrine founded by German philosopher Immanuel Kant in the 18th century. Kant's doctrine is found throughout his *Critique of Pure Reason* (1781). Kant argues that the conscious subject recognizes the objects of experience not as they are in themselves, but only the way they appear to us under the conditions of our sensibility.
- Kant draws a mid way between Rationalism and Empiricism by establishing the theory (Transcendental idealism) that **knowledge is the result of interaction between mind and sensations.**



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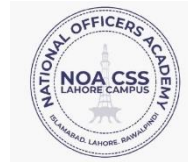
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Transcendental Idealism-2

- There is a physical **chain of interactions** between things perceived and the one who perceives them.
- However, an important **function of mind** is to structure incoming data and to process it in ways that make it other than a simple mapping of outside data.



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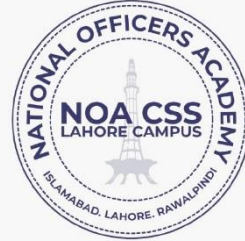
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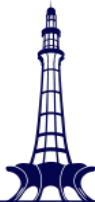


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Intuitionism



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Bergson: Intuitionism

- **Intuition** is the philosophical method of French philosopher Henri Bergson.
- Bergson introduces two ways in which an object can be known: **absolutely and relatively**. Pertaining to each mode of knowledge is a method through which it can be gained. **The latter's method is what Bergson calls analysis**, while the **method of intuition belongs to the former**.



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Knowledge

- Bergson puts forward the **method of intuition and elaborates a philosophy of reality that is far from the reality constructed by scientific methods.**
- In this regard, Bergson's philosophy and his criticisms to positivists seem revolutionary against the domination of positivism.
- Bergson calls these aforementioned ways as (i) the way of analysis and (ii) the way of intuition. According to the distinction drawn out by Bergson, **while we are just capable of moving around the object by the first way, by following the second way we have the power of “entering into it”.**



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