

EDUCATIONAL & CURRICULUM Philosophy

Dr. Nurulwahida Azid
School of Education and Modern Languages
Universiti Utara Malaysia

MAJOR CURRICULUM PHILOSOPHY

THE MEANING OF PHILOSOPHY

- Philosophy means "love of wisdom."
- It is made up of two Greek words, philo, meaning love, and sophos, meaning wisdom

WHY WE NEED PHILOSOPHY

- Philosophy helps teachers to reflect on key issues and concepts in education.
- usually through such questions as:
 - What is being educated?
 - What is the good life?
 - What is knowledge?
 - What is the nature of learning?
 - And what is teaching?

PHILOSOPHERS

- Philosophers think about the meaning of things and interpretation of that meaning.

THREE BRANCHES OF PHILOSOPHY

METAPHYSICS

-What is the nature of **REALITY**?

EPISTEMOLOGY

-What is the nature of **KNOWLEDGE**?

AXIOLOGY

- What is the nature of **VALUES**?

METAPHYSICS

- ✓ ONE OF THE KEY CONCEPTS OF UNDERSTANDING PHILOSOPHIES:
 - ✓ **CONCERNED WITH REALITY AND EXISTENCE**

ASKS: WHAT IS THE NATURE OF REALITY?

SUBDIVIDE INTO TWO CATEGORIES

1. **ONTOLOGY:** What is the nature of existence
2. **COSMOLOGY:** Origin and organization of the universe

EPISTEMOLOGY

- ✓ RAISES QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NATURE OF KNOWLEDGE
- ✓ LOGIC IS A KEY DIMENSION TO EPISTEMOLOGY

TWO KINDS OF LOGIC:

- 1. Deductive logic:** from general to specific
- 2. Inductive logic:** from specific facts to generalization

AXIOLOGY

- ✓ EXPLORES THE NATURE OF VALUES
- **ETHICS:** study of human conduct and examines moral values
- **AESTHETICS:** values beauty, nature, and aesthetic experience (often associated with music, art, literature, dance, theater, and other fine arts)

MAJOR TRADITIONAL PHILOSOPHY

- **IDEALISM**
- **REALISM**
- **PRAGMATISM**
- **EXISTENTIALISM**

MAJOR TRADITIONAL PHILOSOPHY: IDEALISM

- ✓ CONSIDERED OLDEST PHILOSOPHY OF WESTERN CULTURE
- ✓ THE WORLD OF MIND, IDEAS AND REASON IS PRIMARY
- METAPHYSICS: stresses mind over matter (nothing is real except for an idea in the mind)
- EPISTEMOLOGY: all knowledge includes a mental grasp of ideas and concepts
- AXIOLOGY: values are rooted in reality

IDEALISTS BELIEVE THAT VALUES CAN BE CLASSIFIED AND ORDERED INTO A HIERARCHY

MAJOR TRADITIONAL PHILOSOPHY: REALISM

- ✓ The antithesis of Idealism
- ✓ Universe exists whether mind perceives it or not
- METAPHYSICS- reality composed of matter (body) and form (mind)
- EPISTEMOLOGY- sense realism (knowledge comes through senses)
- AXIOLOGY- values derived from nature

LEADING PROponents OF REALISM

- **ARISTOTLE-** father of realism
 - student of Plato
 - argued that knowledge can be acquired through senses

MAJOR TRADITIONAL PHILOSOPHIES:

PRAGMATISM

- ✓ Also known as **experimentalism**- experience or things that work
- ✓ Philosophy of 20th century developed by John Dewey
- **METAPHYSICS**- regard reality as an event or process. Meaning is derived from experience in environment.
- **EPISTEMOLOGY**- truth is not absolute but determined by consequences. Arrived at by inquiry, testing, questioning, retesting, ect.
- **Axiology**- primarily focused on values. Determined by own experiences.

LEADING PROPONENTS OF PRAGMATISM

CHARLES DARWIN

-theory of natural selection implied reality was open ended, not fixed

MAJOR TRADITIONAL PHILOSOPHIES:

EXISTENTIALISM

- ✓ Focus on personal and subjective existence
- ✓ Emphasis on the individual and self-fulfillment
- ✓ De-emphasize the idea of the group

- **METAPHYSICS** - no purpose or meaning to universe. No world order or natural scheme of things
- **EPISTEMOLOGY** - we come to know truth by choice. The authority is found in self.
- **AXIOLOGY** - choice to determine value.