

# Introduction to Philosophy

## Philosophy Disciplines

### HISTORICAL PERIODS

1. **PREMODERNITY**: recorded history - 1600AD. **METAPHYSICS** (realism) is first philosophy.
2. **MODERNITY**: 1648- 1960 AD. **EPISTEMOLOGY** is first philosophy. It is based on Metaphysical Nominalism.
3. **POST- MODERNITY**: 1960- present. **PHILOSOPHY of LANGUAGE** is first philosophy. It is based on Metaphysical Nominalism.

### THEORIES of TRUTH

1. **CORRESPONDENCE** Theory of Truth is based on **METAPHYSICS** (realism).
2. **COHERENCE** Theory of Truth is based on rationalistic **EPISTEMOLOGY**. It assumes metaphysical nominalism.
3. **PRAGMATIC** Theory of Truth is based on empiricist **EPISTEMOLOGY**. It assumes metaphysical nominalism.
4. **SEMANTIC** Theory of Truth is based on **PHILOSOPHY of LANGUAGE**. It assumes metaphysical nominalism.

#### Metaphysics

1. **METAPHYSICS** is the study of the nature of reality.
2. The major divisions include: 1. **ONTOLOGY** (the study of being, which includes Cosmology: the study of time, space and causation) and 2. **THEOLOGY**.
3. There are two primary positions: Realism (belief in forms and particulars) and Nominalism (belief only in particulars)

#### Logic/ Mathematics

1. **LOGIC**- the science of argumentation
2. **MATHEMATICS**- is very similar to **LOGIC**
3. A metaphysical realist believes that formal logic and mathematics are metaphysical forms that have existence.
4. A metaphysical nominalist believes that **LOGIC** and **MATHEMATICS** are only useful human constructs.

#### Epistemology

1. **EPISTEMOLOGY** is the study of knowledge.
2. **EPISTEMOLGY** includes the study of sources, types and theories of knowledge.
3. A metaphysical realist believes that knowledge is true belief arrived at via a reliable belief forming process.
4. A metaphysical nominalist believes that knowledge is justified true belief.

#### Philosophy of Language

1. **PHILOSOPHY of LANGUAGE** is the study of meaning and interpretation.
2. A metaphysical realist believes that meaning is objective and can be known.
3. A metaphysical nominalist believes that meaning is subjective or relative

#### Ethics/ Aesthetics

1. **ETHICS** is the study of the good, the right and character.
2. **AESTHETICS** was the study of beauty and art.
3. A metaphysical realist believes that goodness and beauty are objective.
4. A metaphysical nominalist believes that goodness and beauty are subjective.

A Christian should hold to metaphysical realism, because pre- modern theologians like Augustine, Anselm and Aquinas were metaphysical realists. They believed that metaphysical forms (including: truth, logic, meaning, and values) exist in the mind of God, rather than a world of forms. Both modernity and post- modernity are based on metaphysical nominalism.