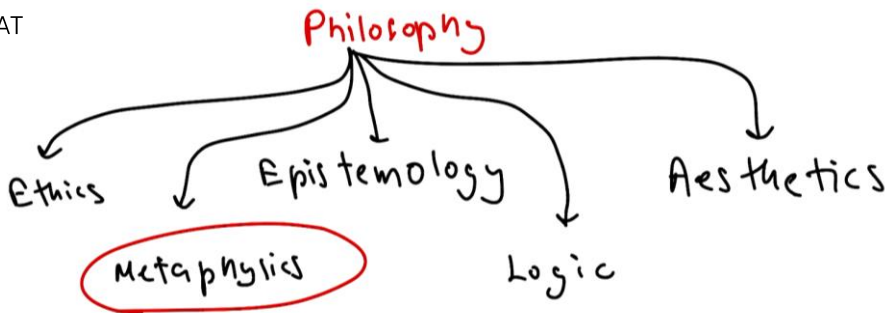


1. ETHICS — “What is right and wrong?”

Deals with moral values, human conduct, and the good life.

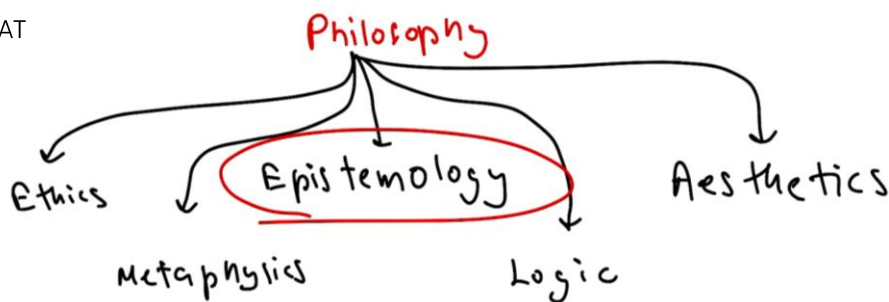
Idea	Description	Philosopher / Tradition
Virtue Ethics	Morality based on cultivating good character (virtues).	Socrates, Plato, Aristotle
Deontology	Duty-based ethics — actions are right if they follow moral rules.	Immanuel Kant
Consequentialism	Morality judged by consequences of actions.	Jeremy Bentham, John Stuart Mill
Utilitarianism	Greatest good for greatest number (a type of consequentialism).	Bentham, Mill
Egoism	Moral actions should serve one’s own interest.	Ayn Rand (ethical egoism)
Altruism	Acting for the benefit of others, even at cost to oneself.	Auguste Comte
Libertarianism	Individual freedom is the highest moral value; minimal government.	John Locke, Stuart Mill
Egalitarianism	Equality (of opportunity or outcome) is morally central.	John Rawls
Social Contract Theory	Morality/politics arise from implicit agreement among people.	Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau
Relativism (Ethical)	Morality depends on culture or context.	Nietzsche, anthropological tradition
Divine Command Theory	What is moral is what God commands.	Medieval theology (Aquinas)
Hedonism	Pleasure is the highest good.	Epicurus
Stoicism	Virtue = living according to reason, indifferent to pain or pleasure.	Zeno, Seneca, Marcus Aurelius
Existentialist Ethics	We create our own moral values through choice.	Sartre, Kierkegaard
Determinism vs. Moral Responsibility	If actions are determined, are we morally responsible?	Spinoza, compatibilists (Hume)
Categorical Imperative	“Act only according to that maxim which you can will to be universal law.”	Kant
Justice as Fairness	Principles of fairness under “veil of ignorance.”	John Rawls
Care Ethics	Emphasizes empathy, relationships, and context over abstract rules.	Carol Gilligan, Nel Noddings



2. METAPHYSICS — “What is reality?”

Deals with the nature of existence, being, and the universe.

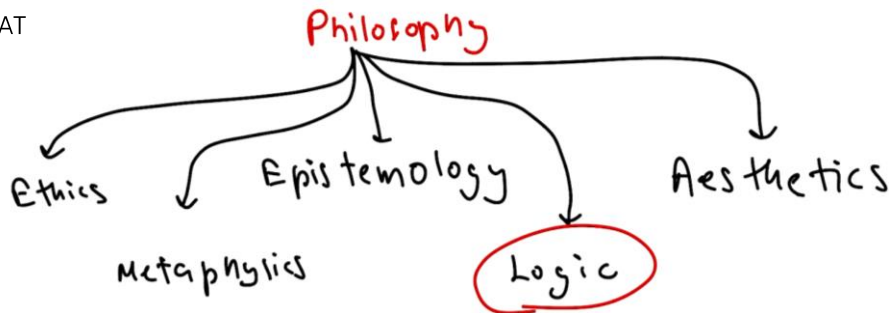
Idea	Description	Philosopher / Tradition
Ontology	Study of “being” — what exists, and in what way.	Aristotle (coined “ontology”)
Dualism	Reality has two fundamental substances — mind & body.	René Descartes
Monism	Everything is made of one substance — either material or spiritual.	Spinoza (one substance: God/Nature)
Materialism	Only physical matter exists; mind is a product of matter.	Epicurus, later Marx
Idealism	Reality is fundamentally mental; mind constructs reality.	George Berkeley, Immanuel Kant (transcendental idealism)
Determinism	All events are caused by prior events — no true free will.	Spinoza, later Laplace
Free Will	Humans have the ability to make choices independent of causation.	Sartre (Existentialism)
Fatalism	All events are predetermined and inevitable — even knowledge won’t change them.	Stoics
Existentialism	Existence precedes essence — we define ourselves by choices. (we create our own meaning)	Jean-Paul Sartre, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche
Nihilism	Life has no objective meaning or value.	Friedrich Nietzsche
Realism vs. Anti-Realism	Realism: reality exists independent of perception; Anti-realism: reality depends on mind.	Plato (realism in ideas), Berkeley (anti-realism)
Causality	Every event has a cause. Questioned by Hume (skepticism about cause).	Aristotle (4 causes), David Hume



3. EPISTEMOLOGY — “How do we know what we know?”

Study of knowledge, belief, truth, and justification.

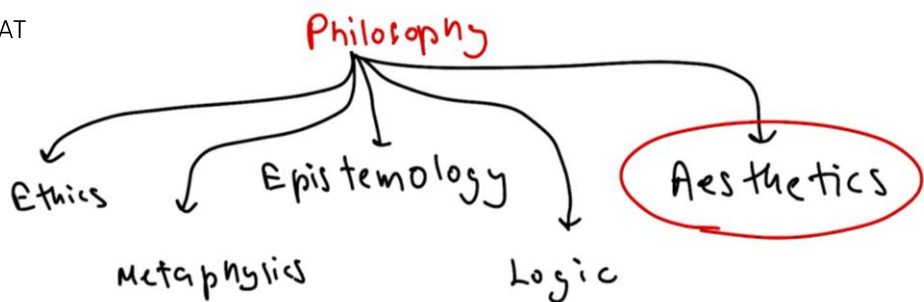
Idea	Description	Philosopher / Tradition
Empiricism	Knowledge comes from sensory experience.	John Locke, David Hume
Rationalism	Knowledge comes from reason and innate ideas.	Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz
Skepticism	Doubt about the possibility of true knowledge.	Pyrrho (ancient Greece), Hume (modern)
A Priori	Knowledge independent of experience (e.g., math).	Kant
A Posteriori	Knowledge dependent on experience.	Locke
Justified True Belief	Classical definition of knowledge: belief + truth + justification.	Plato
Relativism	Truth depends on perspective or culture.	Protagoras, Nietzsche
Foundationalism	Knowledge rests on indubitable basic beliefs.	Descartes
Coherentism	Beliefs are justified by their coherence with each other.	Hegel
Pragmatism	Truth is what works in practice.	William James, John Dewey
Constructivism	Knowledge is actively constructed by the mind, not passively received.	Piaget, Kant



4. LOGIC — “How should we reason?”

Concerned with valid reasoning, inference, and argumentation.

Idea	Description	Philosopher / Tradition
Inductive Reasoning	Reasoning that comes from outside (experience)	Francis Bacon, Hume
Deductive Reasoning	Reasoning following other reasoning	Aristotle (syllogism)
Syllogism	Logical argument with two premises and a conclusion.	Aristotle
Fallacy	Error in reasoning that makes an argument invalid.	Classical logic
Paradox	A statement that contradicts itself but seems true.	Zeno, Russell
Occam’s Razor	Simplest explanation is usually the best.	William of Ockham
Dialectic	Reasoning through dialogue and contradiction.	Socrates (method), Hegel (thesis—antithesis—synthesis)



5. AESTHETICS — “What is beauty?”

Deals with art, beauty, taste, and emotional response.

Idea	Description	Philosopher / Tradition
Aesthetic Experience	Disinterested pleasure — appreciating beauty for its own sake.	Kant
Mimesis	Art as imitation of reality.	Plato, Aristotle
Expressionism	Art expresses emotions and inner experience.	Tolstoy, Croce
Formalism	Beauty lies in form, structure, not content.	Clive Bell
Art for Art’s Sake	Art doesn’t need moral or utilitarian purpose.	19th-century aesthetic movement
Sublime	Awe-inspiring, beyond comprehension beauty or terror.	Edmund Burke, Kant
Relativism in Art	Beauty is subjective, “in the eye of the beholder.”	Hume
Tragedy and Catharsis	Art (esp. tragedy) purges emotions of pity and fear.	Aristotle
Postmodernism	Challenges idea of objective beauty or truth; all meaning is constructed.	Derrida, Foucault, Lyotard