

PHI2394 Quiz 1 Notes

Introduction

Pre-Historical (800 BC)

- Mythology/fate key concepts
 - Not curious because concerned with survival.
 - Scarcity
 - Poverty
 - Dangers of environment
 - Oracles
 - Descriptive not argumentative
 - Fate: everything is pre-determined

Change in Thinking

- Greeks travel across sea

1) Trade

- Compare/contrast customs
- WHY?

2) Leisure

- Rise in economy = free time for thinking

What determines knowledge/science? Evidence, good reasons, support, good argument.

Argumentation - union between philosophy and science (mythology has no evidence).

Ethics - *ethos*, custom/habit = norm, *mores* (Cicero) Emphasis on group thought vs. individuality.

Chapter 1 - Dialectic and Techne

Plato:

- Student of Socrates - uses his voice, mathematician, rationalist.
- Two ways to get knowledge: reason and senses
 - **Rationalist**: Thinks knowledge must be founded on reason - solid, not deceptive.
 - Knowledge should be like math - timeless, universal, necessary.
 - Example: astronomy - use the senses and the physical world as inspiration to study the ornaments based on geometrical figures, use logic and reason (things that are permanent)

Allegory of the Cave:

- Prisoners in a cave only seeing shadows created by the world outside of the cave. One prisoner dragged out of the cave sees first only images of things themselves, then the actual things, then the sun. Would pity the others. But would be ridiculed by them when he returns, because his eyes can't adjust back to the darkness.
- Prisoners = us, people in the world
- Chains = our preconceptions, assumptions, beliefs of others imposed on us
- Upward journey = the study of things above
- Education = the turning around of the whole body, the redirection
- Sun = the truth/knowledge

Techne

- Craft, art, skill that is concerned with the production of something, not for curiosity's sake or for understanding. BUT techne awakens interest in genuine knowing.
- True knowledge has no immediate end to its production, is impractical.

Dialectic:

- Mode of thought (or philosophic medium) through which contradiction becomes a starting point for contemplation.
- Truth is found through dialectic (reason and logic in discussion). The info from our senses goes through the vetting process of reason and logic.
- Important subjects: math, geometry, the study of depth, astronomy

Divided Line of Knowledge - diagram

Who Shall Govern?

- Philosophers (scientists) who understand what is good and just, can use dialectic to argue but have not been exposed too much to argument, but who also can go down into the cave and teach principles/govern with your knowledge. Philosophers are those who are least likely to want the rule, and therefore are the ones who should get it.

Chapter 2 - Techne and Episteme

Scuola di Atene - Raphael

- Plato's hadn't outstretched to sky (what's important) and Aristotle's out in front of him (material world important).

Aristotle

- Student of Plato (critic too), wrote on all sorts of subjects.

- First to attempt evidence-based philosophy, empiricism + logic.

Empiricism

- Epistemology
 - Knowledge comes from experience (*experientia* - experiment derived from this).
 - Concerns what can be observationally confirmed.
- **Aristotle's Empiricism:** What we know comes from our senses (we delight in our senses and they make us know and brings to light differences between things). Science and art come to men through experience.

Episteme - scientific knowledge

- Men who were allowed to be at leisure first started looking at this, as we know.
- Concerns what is “**necessary**” - the subject would not be what it is without these attributes, essential, lasting/timeless.
- Can be demonstrated and has “**origins**” (that are not demonstrable) - has to be physical (not like math or logic which are intangible), has a history.

Deductive vs. Inductive

- D: start with general principles to get to a specific conclusion (no new info).
- I: start with a specific conclusion(s) to make a general principle (new info acquired).

Techne - concerned with production

- Engineer - episteme, construction team - techne
- **Producer:** brings into being the origin of that which is not contained within itself.
 - Not concerns with things that come to be of their own necessity (nature doesn't need help).

Phronesis - intelligence/practical wisdom

- Concerns action, the production of behaviour (not in physical realm)
 - Broad knowledge about what is good, political life. Intelligence is “a state grasping at truth, involving reason, concerned with action about what is good or bad for a human being”
 - Preserved by temperance (moderation/self restraint).
 - Changes based on circumstance.

Nous - understanding

- Intelligence trying to figure out sense perception. Intellect gives us an understanding of general /first principles (*archai*) and originals. Guided by origins of something to determine true understanding.
- In the physical realm.

Sophia - (theoretical) wisdom

- Concerns episteme and nous, not action.
- Is the excellence that makes for good craftsmanship and wise behaviour. Is about principles and causes which lead to universal truths.
 - Exists for its own sake.
 - Understands the truth about origins and what is derived from origins.

Chapter 3 - Nature and Technique

Wolfgang Schadewaldt - German philologist

Physis

- Greek - physical, physics. -sis - coming to pass, an event, directing activity
- Dynamic force that determines the constitution and end of the thing

Nature

- Latin - translation of *physis* = *nature* (from nasci, to be born)
- The world of objects. Inexplicable, dynamic.
- Designates the established, permanent, essential form and fundamental character of any thing which is.

Aristotle - *physis*

- A coming to be of all things whose motion is internal (if external then its artificial).
- Primal, undifferentiated substrate from which things arise. As they arise, shape or form dictates purpose.
- All nature demonstrates purpose (nature can be explained and explanation describes purpose/end “*telos*”)
- Physis is **Normative**
 - Normative statements make claims about how things should or ought to be, how to value them, which things are good/bad/wrong/right.
 - Nothing which is contrary to nature can be good.
 - Physis shuns the unlimited. A thing is what it is based on its limits and boundaries (human embryos in pigs).
 - Creates by good reasoning (*eulogos*).

Renaissance Science

- Now people think that they are closer to God than nature. Nature is looked at as inadequate and is something to study and improve on. It is not tied to physis any longer.

Technique

- organic vs. mechanical

- The design (*eidos*) and end form originates from man's thinking, but the natural object has design within itself.
- Technique perfects what nature was not able to achieve.
- Man stands at the fork of good and evil with our inventiveness.

Chapter 4 - Idols, Study of Nature, Reformation of Education

The Great Chain of Being

History of Ideas

- Classical
 - Justice, wisdom, courage
 - Authority: community/state
 - Ethic: social convention
- Medieval
 - faith, hope, charity, love
 - Authority: Church
 - Ethic: fidelity to God
- Modern
 - Independence
 - Authority: Individual
 - Ethic: fidelity to rules
 - Descartes "I think therefore I am":

Francis Bacon - English philosopher

- The father of empiricism: all knowledge is derived from sense experience. Argued that scientific knowledge should be based only on inductive and careful observation of nature (father of the scientific method - voltaire).

Interpretation of Nature as a Science of Productive Works

- Cannot examine nature in isolation because it is systematic.
- The nature of human ambitions to discover and manipulate natural worlds.
- Bacon thinks science and knowledge should give man dominion over nature.
 - Knowledge = power

Knowledge Frees us from Nature

- Printing, gunpowder, nautical needle - **invention** that have changed the status of the men who use them. Given a higher standard of living to nations that have them.
- Knowledge applied to the natural world = science = the power to conquer nature when you look deep enough.
- Nothing is sacred.

Novum Organum (New Method)

The Idols - rejection of received doctrine, invocation to think critically, prevent us from seeing the truth (CMTT)

1. Idols of the Tribe - common to the race, making assumptions and imposing order on the world. Ex: planets move in circles
2. Idols of the Cave - common to the individual, specific prejudice from experience
3. Idols of the Market - coming from misuse of language, causes confusion and reduces effectiveness of reason
4. Idols of the Theatre - coming from philosophical dogmas, accepting too easily dogmas that are not smart or rely on something else too much