Philosophy for Non-philosophers

OSHER 884-001
Dates: Tuesdays, 3/29/16 – 5/10/16, no class 4/26/16
Times: 3:15 – 4:45 PM
Location: Commander’s House, Fort Douglas
Instructor: Rod Julander, 801 231 4820, prjulander@gmail.com

Course Overview

I. INTRODUCTION

II. VOCABULARY ETC.
   A. THE BASIC SUBDIVISIONS OF PHILOSOPHY
      1. METAPHYSICS  2. THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE
      3. THEORY OF VALUE a. ETHICS b. ESTHETICS
      4. LOGIC
   B. THE PHILOSOPHIC ENTERPRISE
      (ORIGINALLY ALL INTELLECTUAL PURSUITS BUT ASTRONOMY & MATHAMATICS)
      1. ASKING ONE QUESTION BEYOND
         EXAMPLE:
         a. DEMOCRACY IS BEST
            WHY? PROTECTS ALL PEOPLE.
            WHY IS THAT GOOD? ALL PEOPLE HAVE VALUE. ETC.
         b. IS OBSERVATION THE WAY TO KNOWLEDGE WHEN IT IS SO FLAWED
            >> SOLIPSISM
      2. DEVELOPING A GENERAL, INTERNALLY CONSISTENT WORLD VIEW
   C. NEW MEANINGS FOR OLD WORDS
      1. REALISM, 2, IDEALISM, 3, PRAGMATISM 4. MATERIALISM
      5 CAPS = ABSOLUTE REALITY IDEALISM 6. ROOT METAPHOR

II. THEORIES OF REALITY
   A. THE PROBLEM
      1. IS BEAUTY REAL IN EYE OF BEHOLDER? HOW ABOUT MURDER > EVIL?
         HOW ABOUT UNIVERSITY? IT S AN IDEA & IT S REAL??
      2. IF I DIE WHICH ME GOES TO HEAVEN (OR GHOST?)
         BARKLEY > TREE IN FOREST?
         ??? TRUE LOVE? TRUE DEMOCRACY, REPUBLIC, NOT DEMOCRACY MATH 2+2=4
   B. IDEALISM: PLATO > GERMAN IDEALISTS >EXISTENTIALISM> PROTESTANTISM
      1. WORLD OF FORMS (THINK HEAVEN / GOD S MIND
         a. ARGUMENT:
            PHYSICAL WORLD ISN T REALITY (ALLEGORY OF CAVE)
EX: ME BECAUSE I CHANGE DAILY (WHICH IS THE ETERNAL ME.)
A RIVER, E+MC² VIRTUE WHEN DOES A FETUS BECOME HUMAN?
WHY DOES IT MATTER?
HOW DO YOU KNOW? TO BE EXAMINED LATER:

C. REALISM ARISTOTLE >> (COMMON SENSE ???) >
FORMS ARE IN THE EMPIRICAL WORLD
4 CAUSES 1. MATERIAL 2. EFFICIENT 3. FINAL 4. FORMAL
STATUE BRONZE SCULTOR MEMORIALIZE XX BEAUTY, MANNENSS ETC.
(TO UNDERSTAND MOUNTAINS – _ LOOK AT MOUNTAINS– EXTRACT MOUNTAINESS)
TO UNDERSTAND GOODNESS – BOY SCOUTS HELPING FOLKS CROSS STREET?

DEMOCRACY? LOOK AT US?

D. MATERIALISM HOBBES – (LOVE – ANIMAL INSTINCT – - PAIN/PLEASURE
POSITIVISTS NO FORMS NO ABSTRACTIONS VALUES NO
COMMUNITY SPIRIT
E. PRAGMATISM JOHN DEWEY, WILLIAM JAMES
PROBLEM SOLVING > KEY TO HUMAN ENDEAVOR
IF IT SOLVES A PROBLEM IT S REAL
F. EXISTENTIALISM SARTRE, KIRKEGAARD, KAAFFE, RICHARD BACH (ILLUSIONS)

III. THEORIES OF KNOWLEDGE EPISTEMOLOGY 3 WAYS OF KNOWING
IF YOU CLAIM TO KNOW SOMETHING, HOW DO YOU GAIN THAT KNOWLEDGE
A. OBSERVATION, EMPIRICISM, SCIENCE
   1. ARISTOTLE – OBSERVE THE FORMS
   2. LOCKE RIGHT REASON (BASED ON OBSERVATION) –
VALUES ARE
KNOWN SELF EVIDENT ENDOWED BY THEIR CREATOR
3. RALPH BARTON PERRY, 1. LAST ATTEMPTS
AT UNIVERSAL TRUTH THROUGH OBSERVATION HARMONIOUS
HAPPINESS – THE MORAL
PRINCIPLE BEHIND DEMOCRACY. IT CAN BE PROVEN EMPIRICALLY –
THUS IT BECOMES TRUE AND HE ACHIEVED THE OUGHT FROM THE IS.
THE INTEGRATION OF ALL MY INTERESTS W/ OTHERS TO MAXIMIZE I
INTERESTS OH ALL TO ENSURE HARMONY >>CONSCIENCE BECOMES
LARGEST VALUE. (WM. JAMES DEAL W/ DEVIL) OR SLAVE SOCIETY
W/ BELIEF SLAVES ARE BE SERVED IN SLAVERY.
4. LOGICAL POSITIVISTS 3 KINDS OF STATEMENTS
   i. LOGIC (RELATIONS BETWEEN PROPOSITIONS) 2+2=4
   EXAMPLE: LIFE BEGINS AT CONCEPTION
   TO TAKE A LIFE IS MURDER.
   THEREFORE ABORTION IS MURDER.
   ii. FACT EMPIRICAL (OBSERVABLE)
   iii. VALUE (GOOD/BAD BEAUTIFUL/UGLY)
   a. KILLING IS BAD   b. THAT IS A BEAUTIFUL
PICTURE.
5. >> PRAGMATISM J DEWEY HUMAN ENDEAVOR IS
PROBLEM SOLVING.
W/O A PROBLEM.
SOLUTION BECOMES TRUE.
B. LOGIC   EMPTY NOTHING IN PREDICATE NOT IN SUBJECT

C. DIRECT UNDERSTANDING (FAITH. INTUITION, PRE-COGNITION)
   2. CAN T BE SHARED = LIKE A TOOTH ACHE  NO VERIFICATION
      CLOSED SYSTEM

IV. VALUE THEORY
A. ESTHETICS
   PLATO   > BEAUTY IS A FORM
   BEAUTY IN EYE OF BEHOLDER

B. ETHICS
   DEONTOLOGICAL OBEDIENCE TO MORAL PRINCIPLES
   TELEOLOGICAL END JUSTIFIES THE MEANS
   JULANDER   -- MENTAL PROPENSITY FOR ONE OR THE OTHER.