First Study Guide
Introduction to Philosophy   Washburn, Chapter One (1.1, 1.3, 1.6)

Philosophers in History

Socrates: history, chose death over abandoning philosophy, lack of knowledge, Socratic method
Protogoras and the Sophists: relativistic views, "man is the measure of all things", example of Darius
Plato: born at the end of the Golden Age, blamed relativistic education for decline, view of moral values as objective
Epicurus: agreed with Aristotle that happiness is the goal but defined happiness hedonically instead of eudaimonically
Marcus Aurelius: Stoicism, goal of living in harmony with nature by emulating it, equivalence of "nature," "reason," "law," "fate," "mind," and "God", highest good is virtue
Hume: Hobbes as a psychological egoist, morality arises in sympathy, morality as subjective
Nietzsche: master morality and slave moralities (including Christianity)

Issue: Is moratity relative?

Relativist: morality is real but depends on culture, historical precedents and cultural imperialism, argument from sets of rules, argument from learning moral rules, argument from impossibility of finding an objective standpoint
Absolutist: at least some parts of morality apply to everyone, incoherence of relativism, example of clitorectomy, lack of relevant difference between a person who performs clitorectomy and one who doesn't, practical impossibility of respecting a subculture and yet forcing it to abide by the larger culture's morality

Issue: Is pleasure the only [intrinsic] value?

Hedonist: Epicureanism, naïve vs. sophisticated hedonism, hedonist's definition of happiness, mental vs. physical pleasures, different for different people, Pleasure is good and why, Pleasure is the only good valuable as an end, claim that all other values are means to pleasure and would otherwise be rejected, pleasure is its own reward, connection to morality
Pluralist: oversimplification is bad (why?), Procrustean, hedonism oversimplifies values, other possible singular values, Personal values, Social values, Moral values, Virtues, the fact that none of these are equivalent to "having fun"

Issue: Are we always selfish?

Psychological Egoist: "TANSTAAFL", every human action is performed for one's own benefit, examples of doctor to emergency room and women bringing flowers, possible self-interested motives, example of soldier falling on grenade and the avoidance of pain or a guilty conscience, reinterpretation of seemingly benevolent actions into self-centered ones and NOT vice versa
Psychological Altruist: girlfriend's claim that lovers only do things for their sweethearts for their own happiness, boyfriend's claim that this is so of infatuation, but love requires more than this, if true love exists then people can do things purely for someone else, and true love really does exist

General Information

Worldviews, broad definition of philosophy, narrow definition of philosophy, fields of philosophy (theology, ethics, political philosophy, metaphysics, human nature, epistemology, and aesthetics), argument, valid argument, sound argument