

Philosophy

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1. What is Philosophy?

Originally, the word *philosophy* comes from the ancient Greek words *philos*: ('love') and *Sophia*: ('wisdom') which all coined become a **deep wisdom consisting of love of truth.**

The goal of philosophy is **to get closer to the truth.** Logic, reasoning, and argumentation are the predominant methods used. But unlike many other disciplines, philosophy does not contain a large body of accepted truths or canonical knowledge. Indeed, **philosophy is often known for its uncertainty** because it focuses on questions for which we do not yet have ways of definitively answering.

The influential 20th-century philosopher Bertrand Russell (1912) explains that “as soon as definite knowledge concerning any subject becomes possible, the subject ceases to be called philosophy, and becomes a separate science”

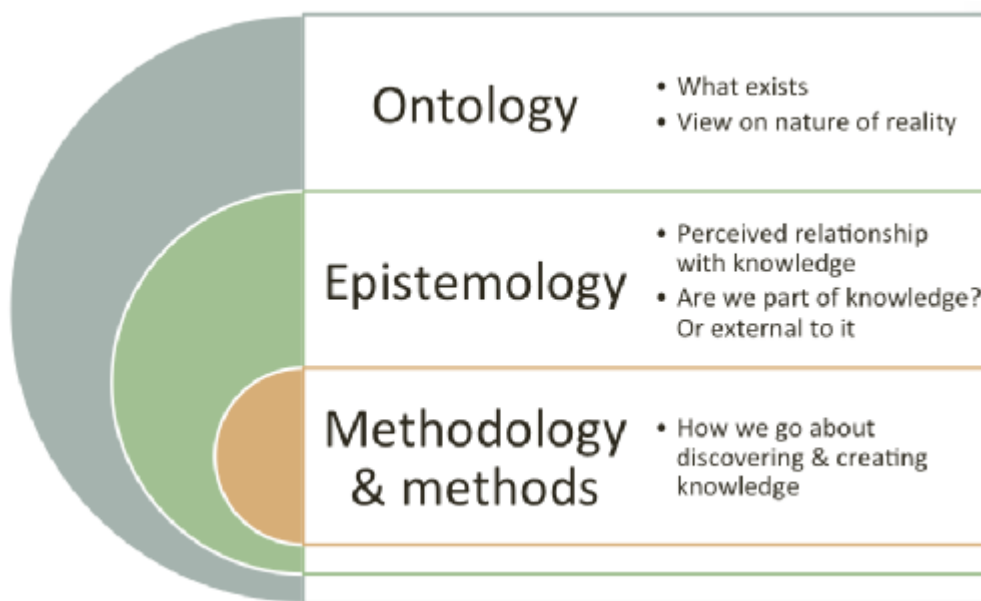
And here are some practical definitions:

Definitions:	Source
1. a systematic study of general and fundamental questions concerning topics like <i>existence, reason, knowledge, value, mind, and language</i> . It is a rational and critical inquiry that reflects on its own methods and assumptions.	The Stanford encyclopedia of philosophy (1900)
2. The study of the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality, and existence, especially when considered as an academic discipline.	Phillips (1995)
3. "Advanced study of the speculative subjects (logic, ethics, physics, and metaphysics)",	Chapman (2020)

From the above selected definitions, philosophy can be divided into **4 major divisions** as they are **epistemology** (*existence-reason-knowledge*), **ethics** (*value*), **logic** (*mind*), and **metaphysics** (*language*)

1. Epistemology.

Epistemology is the branch of philosophy that studies **knowledge**. It is also known as **theory of knowledge** and aims to understand what knowledge is, **how it arises, what its limits are, and what value it has**. It further examines the nature of **truth, belief, justification, and rationality**. Some of the questions addressed by epistemologists include "By what method(s) can one acquire knowledge?"; "How is truth established?"; and "Can we prove causal relations? In short, **epistemology studies what knowledge is and how to acquire it**. Epistemology is closely related to **Ontology** and **methodology and methods** as can be seen in below picture.



2. Ethics

Ethics investigates **moral principles and what constitutes right conduct**. Ethics, also known as moral philosophy, studies what constitutes right **conduct**. It is also concerned with the moral **evaluation** of character traits and institutions. It explores what the standards of **morality** are and how to live a good life. Philosophical ethics addresses such basic questions as "Are moral obligations

relative?"; "Which has priority: well-being or obligation?"; and "What gives life meaning.



3.Logic

Logic is the study of correct reasoning and explores how good arguments can be distinguished from bad ones. It includes both formal and informal logic. Formal logic is the science of deductively valid inferences or logical truths. It studies how conclusions follow from premises due to the structure of arguments alone, independent of their topic and content.

Informal logic is associated with informal fallacies, critical thinking, and argumentation theory. It examines arguments expressed in natural language while formal logic uses formal language. When used as a countable noun, the term "a logic" refers to a logical formal system that articulates a proof system. Logic plays a central role in many fields, such as philosophy, mathematics, computer science, and linguistics.

What is logic?



- **Logic** is a method of reasoning that helps prove arguments.
- Logic works by assessing the accuracy of a collection of statements.
- To be deemed logical, testing of such accuracy should occur in a sequence.

4. Methaphysics

Metaphysics examines the most general features of reality, existence, objects, and properties. Other notable subfields are aesthetics, philosophy of language, philosophy of mind, philosophy of religion, philosophy of science, philosophy of history, and political philosophy. Metaphysicists attempt to answer basic questions like "Why is there something rather than nothing?"; "Of what does reality ultimately consist? It includes questions about the nature of consciousness and the relationship between mind and matter, between substance and attribute, and between potentiality and actuality.

Metaphysics studies questions related to what it is for something to exist and what types of existence there are. Metaphysics seeks to answer, in an abstract and fully general manner, the questions of: What is *it* that exists; and What *it* is like.

