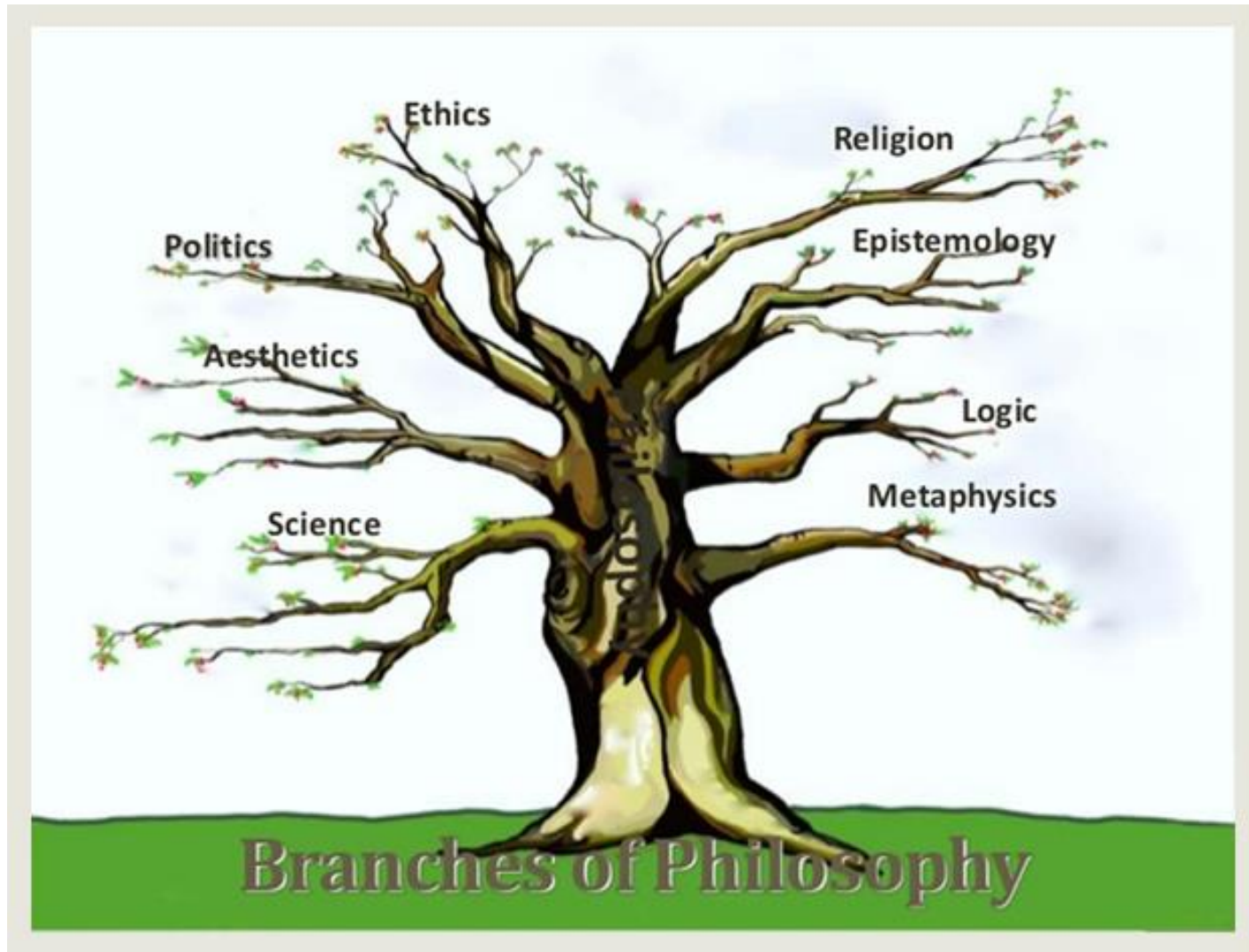


Philosophy 1101

What is philosophy?

Philosophy and science



The history of philosophy

- **Ancient:** *Plato, Aristotle, Atomism.* Theory of forms. Distinction between objective and subjective. Giving exact analyses of terms like “justice”, “goodness”, “knowledge”, etc. Not merely giving examples of them. Scepticism. Atomism.
- **Medieval:** *Focus on Aristotle + logic.* Argue for the existence of God. Astronomy, mechanics. Augustine, Aquinas, Ockham, Duns Scotus, Buridan.
- **Modern:** *Copernican revolution.* Focus on epistemology and human nature. Descartes, Locke, Hume, Kant.
- **20th century:** *Symbolic logic, applied to philosophy.* Focus on language, philosophy of science, and mind. Frege, Russell, Quine, Putnam, Popper, Kuhn.

Mind and matter

- What came first?
 - *Materialism*: Matter is eternal. Minds arose recently, as accidental combinations of atoms.
 - *Dualism*: Mind is eternal. Matter was created by minds (or a Mind).

Which view best accounts for:

1. Free will
2. Logic/rationality/math
3. Knowledge
4. Consciousness
5. Intentionality
6. Morality
7. Personal identity



Rationality vs. truth

- Truth is the *goal* of philosophy – what philosophers (and scientists) pursue.
 - A true belief is one that agrees with reality (which transcends human minds altogether)
- Rationality is the *method* of philosophy (and science).
 - Rationality means forming beliefs on the basis of what we see, hear (etc.) and what makes logical sense.

- Not every academic department sees truth as its goal, or rationality as its method. In this respect, (most) philosophers and scientists are *realists*, and to this extent follow the ideas of Plato.
- Opposition to realism (i.e. anti-realism) also has deep historical roots. Protagoras of Abdera (c. 490 - c.420 BCE) famously said, “Man is the measure of all things”. (E.g. the room feels hot to one person, cold to another, and that’s all there is to it. There is no fact of the matter.)