Nile Global Academia

Course Title: Logic and Critical Thinking

Course Code: Phil101

Module Prepared by: Ministry of Science and Higher Education

Course Instructor: Birhanu S. (Nile Global Academia)

Core Fields of Philosophy

Lesson 3: Metaphysics and Epistemology

Part 1: Metaphysics

Lesson 3: Metaphysics and Epistemology
Part 1: Metaphysics

- ***Metaphysics*** is the branch of philosophy that studies the ultimate nature of reality or existence.

  It deals with issues of reality, God, freedom, soul/immortality, the mind-body problem, form and substance relationship, cause and effect relationship, and other related issues.

- The term ***metaphysics*** is **derived** from the Greek words "meta" means ("beyond", "upon" or "after") and physika, means ("physics"). Literally, it refers 'those things after the physics.'

Lesson 3: Metaphysics and Epistemology
Part 1: Metaphysics

- Some of the **questions** that ***metaphysics*** primarily deals with are:

What is reality? What is the ultimate real? What is the nature of the ultimate reality? Is it one thing or is it many different things? Can reality be grasped by the senses, or it is transcendent? What makes reality different from a mere appearance?

What is mind, and what is its relation to the body? Is there a cause and effect relationship between reality and appearance? Does God exists, and if so, can we prove it?

Lesson 3: Metaphysics and Epistemology
Part 1: Metaphysics

Are human actions free, or predetermined by a supernatural force? What is human being? A thinking mind? A perishable body? Or a combination of both? What is time? What is the meaning of life?

- Taking an example of the **existence of a floor**, what is exactly the nature of the floor upon which you stand?

It is ***flat***, ***solid***, and ***smooth***; it has a ***particular color***; it is composed of an identifiable material, such as wood or concrete; and it **supports** your **weight**.

Lesson 3: Metaphysics and Epistemology
Part 1: Metaphysics

- ✓To a **physicist**, the floor is made of molecules; that molecules consists of atoms, electrons, protons, and neutrons; and these, finally, of electric energy alone.
- ✓To a **chemist**, the floor is a hotbed of hydrocarbons associated in a particular way and subject to certain kinds of environmental influences, such as heat, cold, wetness, dryness, and oxidation.

Lesson 3: Metaphysics and Epistemology
Part 1: Metaphysics

- ***Metaphysical questions*** are the most ***basic to ask*** because they provide the foundation upon which all subsequent inquiry is based.
- ***Metaphysical questions*** may be divided into four subsets or aspects.
- ***Cosmological Aspect***: cosmology consists in the study of theories about the origin, nature, and development of the universe as an orderly system.

Its **Questions** are: "how did the universe originate and develop? Did it come about by accident or design? Does its existence have any purpose?"

Lesson 3: Metaphysics and Epistemology
Part 1: Metaphysics

- **Theological Aspect**: Theology is that part of religious theory that deals with conceptions of and about God.

Its **questions** are: "Is there a God? If so, is there one or more than one? What are the attributes of God? If God is both all good and all powerful, why does evil exist? If God exists, what is his relationship to human beings and the 'real' world of everyday life?"

Lesson 3: Metaphysics and Epistemology
Part 1: Metaphysics

- **Anthropological Aspect**: Anthropology deals with the study of human beings

Its questions are: what is the relation between mind and body? Is mind more fundamental than body, with body depending on mind, or vice versa? What is humanity's moral status? Are people born good, evil, or morally neutral? To what extent are individuals free? Do they have free will, or are their thoughts and actions determined by their environment, inheritance, or a divine being? Does each person have a soul? If so, what is it?

Lesson 3: Metaphysics and Epistemology
Part 1: Metaphysics

- **Ontological Aspect**: Ontology is the study of the nature of existence, or what it means for anything to exist.

Its **questions** are: "Is basic reality found in matter or physical energy, or is it found in spirit or spiritual energy? Is it composed of one element, or two, or many?" "Is reality orderly and lawful in itself, or is it merely orderable by the human mind? Is it fixed and stable, or is change its central feature? Is this reality friendly, unfriendly, or neutral toward humanity?"

Next course is part two of Lesson 3 (Epistemology)

Thank you for watching!

ስለተመለከታችሁልን እናመሰግናለን።

You can ***subscribe Nile Global Academia YouTube Channel*** to get our next courses