

EDPS 210

Socrates 2/2 class notes

- educated people know that their knowledge is limited
- never wrote anything down
 - why?
 - ↳ knowledgeable enough to know that things can change, don't write anything b/c you'll only learn something else new.
- embraces death
 - ↳ drank poison
- accepted his limitations
 - oracle → go there to get answers
- walk around the Agora
 - big open space, walks around & teaches people.
 - people would follow him & they would talk, question each other, etc.

* How should men live?

- how should everyone live?
- "the unexamined life is not worth living"
- "the only thing I know is that I don't know anything" → trying to prove the oracle wrong

Last Day of Socrates → Apology (written by Plato)

* searching for the truth

- tried to define things, like love, justice, etc.

"only one thing he should consider: if he is acting like a good man or like a bad man"

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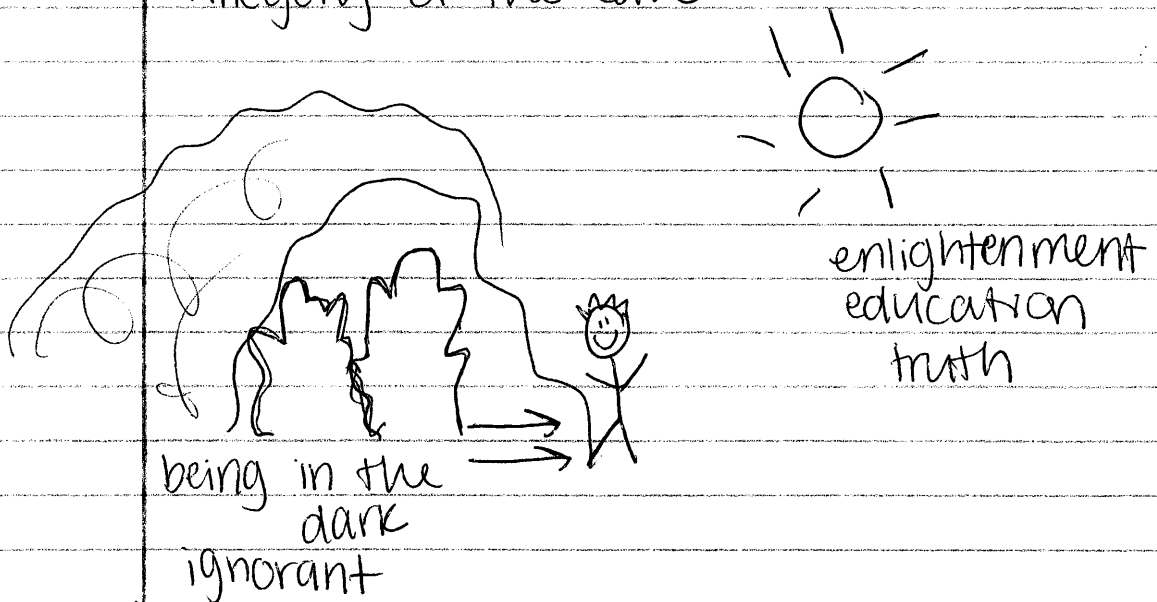
- thinks God put him on the earth to do what he does
compares himself to a fly on a horse = annoying
- what is the good life? How do we live well?
- There is only one goodness → knowledge
- Truth is inside us

Socratic Method

- answering your own questions thru other people's questions
- dig deeper to find answer within yourself
- helps to remember things when you have solved them yourself

Plato's cave

Allegory of the cave



"breaking the chains" = being educated, learning

Plato's Allegory of the cave:

- people in cave are taking what they see (shadows) as truth, where they should really be questioning the truth & what they see.
- more interested in the good society, & how we get there.
- "philosopher kings" → gifted, educated class
→ takes about 50 yrs to become educated enough to be a philosopher king.

Socrates :

- aware of limitations
- stuck to morals
- pioneered philosophy
- rebel
- annoying, ^{caused} trouble
- knowledge seeker
- humble
- educator
- passionate
- innovative
- argumentative
- explorer
- independent
- dedicated
- brave
- concerned w/ how others live
- questioning

Plato :

- leading people to knowledge
- pupil of socrates
- more practical
- goals for society
- expanding what socrates said
- dedicated student
- descriptive / detail oriented / imaginative
- educator
- spiritual
- selective
- confident
- idealist
- modern
- authoritative
- productive
- valued justice & education
- good society

Notes on Aristotle

2/13

- called "The philosopher", best-educated person ever
- "philosophical grandson of Socrates"

* Studied under Plato for 20 years
* Tutor to Prince Alexander, who taught him about many things that the Greeks hadn't known.

* teacher (created school = Lyceum)
* Alexander died & he fled to Macedonia, stopped.

* Early work was similar to Plato
* Later works = more mature, w/ more worldly knowledge.

* Truth comes by careful observation & analysis of nature

* He was the first one to have such a vast body of materials & knowledge available to him.

→ "all things possess an essence or nature"
↳ "inherent potentials are associated w/ this"
↳ everything strives towards an end consistent w/ its nature & essence

* "The defining characteristic of humans is their ability to ask general questions & seek answers to them thru observation & analysis."

↳ humans are animals that are capable of philosophical thought.

* "An educator... can enhance the human being's natural desire to know."

↳ "Humans who have a desire to know are coming as close as possible to actualizing potential."

Class Notes → 2/16

Aristotle :

Metic → Resident Alien
(person living somewhere where they aren't a citizen)

worked & studied in Athens, but was born in Chalcidice

Parapatetic → "walking around"
- wasn't allowed to own property b/c he wasn't a citizen, so he walked around & his listeners followed him.

* How is Aristotle different from Plato and Socrates?

Walking + Talking → is it helpful? distracting?
→ we aren't used to communicating this way.
→ distractions make us off-topic

→ Aristotle was more scientific, things must be tangible to find true meaning.

- Plato & Socrates were more abstract (cave)
- Aristotle = observational analysis

- logical

- influenced by other cultures (Alexander the Great) ←

- potentiality vs. actuality

- ↳ (acorn → has potential to become a tree, but doesn't have to become one)

- humans have ability to think

Areté → excellence

→ Strive to be an excellent person
(thru education & fulfillment)

Essence → potential associated w/ the
essence of everything

What is the "potential" for humans?

→ End result that we strive for, (excellence)

★ How do we become an excellent person? ★

- golden mean ~~~~~→ BALANCE

- don't do anything in excess

- live a balanced / well rounded life

Obtain happiness & become excellent

- using the ability to think (as humans)
to make us excellent & therefore happy.

Potential → specific for the individual

* what's excess for one might not be the
same for everyone.

* innate differences, some people are
better @ things than others, but we all
have individual potential.

Characteristics of Aristotle:

- | | | |
|------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| - virtuous | - medic | - scientific |
| - tangible | - well rounded | - acorn / tree |
| - logical | - golden mean | - potential |
| - modern | - worldly | - excellence = goal |
| | (world-wide resources) | - humans can think |

Notes → St. Augustine

2/21

- Born in North Africa (354)
- Studied rhetoric, became professor of rhetoric
- 2 mistresses, 1 son w/ first mistress
- Dies in Hippo → (430)

Confessions - book on sin & redemption
City of Man & City of God - relationships of humans, political to religious.

- His position on education - going into medieval period
- Foundation = religion, & religious believers.
used their religious background knowledge & common purpose to form his crew, those who believed in him.
- Truth can be found in Christ.
↳ 1st philosopher to use mainly religion.
- * for both greeks & medieval philosophy, membership in a particular group is what allows the discovery of "the truth"
- Augustine vs. Descartes ↑
 - Augustine thinks the group discovering the truth will in the end become timeless & universal.
 - Descartes thinks it should BEGIN w/ a foundation that's timeless & universal, so that it can be true everywhere & for everyone, not just that group.

• Augustine vs. John Dewey → Education

- Very similar perspectives on education, thought it to be about giving students good environments to learn. Against the system of having students recite information, he was about maximum learning & getting meanings of things.

* learn thru experiences, create good environments for children to have these experiences.

What is an educated person?

- A person whose membership in a religious community allows him/her to discover things that enable them to deal meaningfully w/ their experience.

In-class notes:

- about experience, but to find truth you must have God
- experiences can enlighten you or limit you.
- goal is to have Christ & go to heaven
- God's word is true, doesn't question his word.
- basically, his philosophy was completely in God, he just preached God's word & told people to follow him
- Authoritarian way of speaking

CLASS NOTES → John Locke

2/23

- British philosopher
- Aimed to understand limits of human understanding

* "Tabula Rasa" → blank slate

↳ the truth must be discovered thru experience.

- * teachers must mold children into good students.
- * government exists to protect human rights & properties, including education.

* Protects rights for women, minorities, disabled (currently protects these things)

- virtue (be able to hold good relationships) (aka respect)
- wisdom (manage affairs)
- ability to handle oneself in social situations
- learning (must satisfy 3 needs above before one is able to learn)

* Tabula Rasa → must teach children good from bad.

- teach them good habits
- everyone is born equal - equal potential

Horace Mann → common school movement

↳ this is why we have classrooms.

* mold children into good citizens

- Unique in his philosophy
- Ideally educated person: brought to life in his works.
 Showed that it is attainable.
- Visions of a universally Humanist society were rejected by others.

Quote → "He who allows oppression shares the crime" ~ Erasmus

"prevention is better than the cure"

- Born 1466, Rotterdam
- Leader in Humanism
- Self-improvement thru education
- more tolerant christianity
- Wrote other editions of the new testament (in other languages)

* 1st to use books mainly for his studies

Ideally educated person: a good christian, tolerance, respect, simple, considerate, self-less, generous, thoughtful, humble, sincere, genuine, faithful.

* reform church by reason & morality (lots of problems / abuses in the church), doesn't want to lose faith, wants to make it better,

Humanism = many sides

The Praise of Folly:

- putting other people down
- Socratic method
- saying that people shouldn't take themselves so seriously.