

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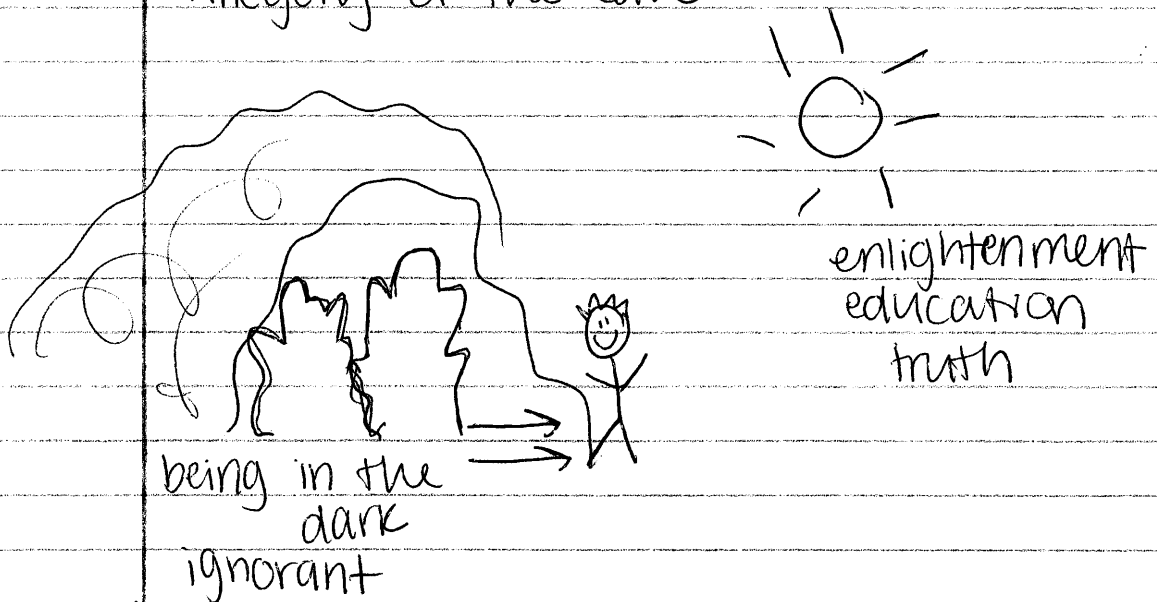
- thinks God put him on the earth to do what he does
compares himself to a fly on a horse = annoying
- what is the good life? How do we live well?
- There is only one goodness → knowledge
- Truth is inside us

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 ~~AD~~)
- 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

- 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.

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3/9/10

John Dewey → Notes

- * Born in Burlington, Vermont, 1859
 - went to University of Vermont
 - teaches High School in P.A.
 - grad school → Johns Hopkins
 - teaches philosophy @ University of Michigan
 - Lab school → University of Chicago
 - professor of psychology → ~~Chicago~~ Columbia U
- * Dies 1952 in NYC
- * lived thru Civil War, WWI & WWII, & Great Depression
- * grew up as a Puritan in New England.
- * dropped religious foundations, went from "absolutism to experimentalism"
- * committed to social justice & democracy
- * stopped participating in religious activities, ~~and~~ "transformed metaphysical idealism into pragmatic naturalism".
- * tried to construct "The Great Community" & make the world "safe from democracy"
 - ↳ advocate of participatory democracy, where resources are available for everyone to do what they want to do.
- * wrote many books, articles, journals
 - ↳ did not always write well, not articulate.
 - his writing is often misunderstood, & seldom read
- * "people treat him as a saint or a villain"
 - ↳ people either love him or they hate him.

* "highly complex thinker whose thought could never be captured by any reductionist label."

Education → defines education as "a continual process of reconstruction of experience."

an educated person... can get as much meaning as possible from his/her experiences.

"My Pedagogic Creed" = all about his views on education

* "either/or" thinking is opposed by Dewey.

↳ rejects the beliefs that knowledge is either innate or external (too absolute)

- didn't want to oppose it, b/c then people would have to choose either/or AGAIN. So, he created a "new education"

↳ based on experience.

◦ good experience has interaction & continuity.

* "It is our unique ability to stop, reflect, then act. (respond intelligently to a problematic situation)"
↳ this distinguishes humans from less intelligent animals.

* went over exam

John Dewey

* Child centered → into kids learning about things that interest them.

* learning from experience → hands on activities

* wrote lots about lots of different topics
→ educated opinion on everything, even if it didn't make complete sense.

* though children should learn reality → education isn't about getting ready to live, they are already living.

* Education is something we need to live socially (like nutrition, for your mind)

* Dewey-style classroom → bringing real-live situations into the classroom, like for math you need this for doing your taxes.
* learn manners & etiquette in schools

→ concept of either/or = too absolute

- education should have no right/wrong, there can be a gray area (neutral) and education should be more broadened.
- compares to other philosopher's visions of "absolute truth", he is saying there is no absolute truth.

→ teaching different methods - kids learn better when they are enjoying the content.

- keep the kids interested & motivated to learn, even if they don't enjoy the subject.

- what do the students have in common?
- now can you relate the subject to the students?

Educative experience : an experience that you can learn from.

- Build upon experiences to continue knowledge.

- * Has many of the same views we have today
- * Education starts at home → important to have a home that is good for learning.

An educated person... can get as much meaning as possible from his/her experiences.

Statements on Education

- group statements
1. Education ^{should be} ~~is~~ constantly questioning students in their thinking, and questioning others.
 2. Experience is necessary for education as one needs to see different things to learn. ~~is~~
 3. Students should actively participate in their own learning and be able to make decisions in the classroom.
 4. Classrooms should always be a good learning environment
 5. Children need to learn to love learning and be motivated for education to be effective.

Catharine Macaulay (interesting facts)

- Children shouldn't give money to the poor → it's not actually teaching them anything (no meaning to them)
- Children shouldn't be educated until age 10-12 (like Rousseau) they aren't ready developmentally
- Married her friend's son, highly gossiped about but she didn't care. Went against norms of marriage, went along w/ her gender-role theories. (non-conformist)
- Said gender roles are constructed by society, men & women are biologically the same.
- 1st to say that women can do the same things as men
 - capable of learning the same things.
 - opposite of Rousseau
- put blame on women for going along with gender roles, women make themselves more attractive to men.
"Read Romance Novels instead of books of real substance"
- Said the weakness of women is due to miseducation.
 - women = tenderness & wisdom
 - men = strength & reason

* purpose of education is to make "good thinkers" & good citizens. This would improve life for everyone.

* regardless of class, everyone should be educated equally. Equal opportunity to learn.

* Females have the ability to reason, men are biologically tender as well. If they are not confined to social norms. Both men & women would experience all traits.

* men & women would both contribute in both ways to society (like raising kids)

Big Ideas / characteristics :

- * Feminist (women's activist)
- * Wanted to make the world genderless
- * Sympathy & benevolence if educated correctly.
 - ↳ molding people / education
- * education should promote kindness, not violence
- * Brave / bold
- * Revolutionary → 1st one to talk about gender roles
- * reasonable / fair
- * non-conformist
- * self-educated
- * benevolence → balance btwn too much / too little
- * ahead of her time
- * optimistic for women's rights
- * historian
- * republican - pro democracy
- * everyone has potential to achieve perfection

★ What do these traits tell us about her contributions to education?

- genderless education → equality among sexes
- education should be delayed until age 10/12
- break gender norms
- balance btwn greed & sharing
- benevolence is ultimate virtue
- self-education will create critical & confident thinkers
- children should be exposed to a wide variety of subject

Hannah Arendt:

interesting facts:

- worked to make Jewish refugees
- in a concentration camp at one point.
- bridge gap btwn old & new, learn from past & from traditions.
- lived in Nazi Germany under Authoritative Hitler, but still wanted Authoritative approach to education.
- Build off of what has happened in the past.

* Human Action → know what has happened in the past & how you can change it.

* Education needs to come to forefront of politics.
- change perceptions & Judgements of education.

* progressive education → know tradition, know history.
→ be active, create something new / a new life for ourselves.

* don't just sit back and let someone tell you what to think → you have to make something for yourself.

* separate children & the world
- protect children

Character Traits & main points

- Jewish
- promoted equality
- 1st woman to become a professor @ Princeton
- be aware of the past & future
- courageous
- traditional
- belief in authority
- natality

* parents assume responsibility for life & development of child.
(not solely responsibility of teachers)

* freedom is highest achievement

* each new generation has ability to take action towards fixing the world.

For paper → our own ideas on education & how our ideas relate to the ideas of the philosophers.

- * use philosophers to give you ideas
- * what do you believe about human nature
- * how would you implement these ideas today?

Class Notes : 3/30

* next week : bring in article on education (current) & why it relates to one/more of the philosophers.

Have questions ready to ask students

Greene → went to NYU, American, wealthy background

- Big on personal reflection & self awareness

For Education → needs to be engagements btwn students & teachers

* teachers must be self-aware & love what they teach.

* shouldn't depend on technology alone, must be aware of its limitations

- ashamed of her wealthy lifestyle, wanted to be an individual. Feminist.

"Awaken students' minds"

educated person → attacks barriers to broaden horizons, gain freedom

- Opposes rationalism & universalism, in favor of pluralism & diversity

* generate, inauthentic, diversity & imagination (art & culture in classroom)

* make learning enjoyable for yourself

pg. 2

Literature & the arts are big in the classroom -
it gives people freedom, Big on Freedom.

* creativity & using the senses.

Martin :

→ will awaken the senses, tell you
about yourself, in touch w/ yourself

conversation → to be educated, you must
engage in conversations

• conversations → you learn to be a
person thru conversation - you should
speak with a diversity of people, & hear
many different perspectives.

* looked back on Plato's views on education

• very little written about women:

- assumed that women went along w/ what was
said about men, or they weren't important.

* education of women is not adequate

→ there is no interest in what people say about women

→ people ignore what women write about themselves

* claiming education, not accepting it / receiving it.
- students should be more active in learning,
be more involved.

"education is the development of intellectual & moral
habits," → not just training in skills / learning things.

→ women are not involved in education - they are
educated to be a housewife, not a scholar.

↳ men thought of women's works as unimportant,
they didn't want to get into it.

* women & men think of things differently, without women
we would be missing out on a whole perspective.

Jane Roland Martin

→ Why are there so few great women artists?
- martin was "educational analogue" to this.

* "women have been excluded from the conversation that constitutes the history of western educational thought".

→ Very little written about women -
either it was assumed that they went along w/
what was said about men, or they weren't
important.

→ No interest in what people do say about
women.

→ Ignored what women wrote about themselves.

* education of women is not adequate
→ Education is very significant

* "To be educated is to ~~engage~~ engage in a conversation that stretches back in time, that enables the student today to converse with previous scholars."

↳ looked back on Plato's works, to his model of education

- "Education is the development of intellectual & moral habits
- not just training in skills or learning things.

* conversation is where you learn to be a person
↳ one should speak w/ diversity of people & hear
many different perspectives.

Noddings :

- caring in education (caring = foundation for successful educator)
- we know how to care for people, but not much about anything else.

- skills of caregiving are important, but so are characteristics about caring.

- students should care about how their educator will affect them.

* moral & emotional growth

- moral knowledge is sufficient for moral behavior
- wrongdoing = ignorance, if people don't know things will affect others, they won't know not to do it

↳ self-centered, only about what affects them

Basis of theory :

moral education → modeling (important for caring)

- shouldn't be sarcastic to kids
- can't threaten teachers to care 4 students

(show children how to care by caring for them)

• Dialogue

- not just talk / conversation, its open-ended (we should ask questions)
- connects us to one another, caring

* Trust is key *

• PRACTICE

- attitudes are shaped by practicing

~~scribbled out text~~

• Conformation

- act of affirming & encouraging the best in others

* no matter how good a teacher is, if you aren't interested in the subject then you won't enjoy it.

* curriculum limits students → yeah its practical but there is more to life.

curriculum should be based around the stages of life

4/6/10 Dewey → "Education is not preparation for life." pg. 1

Education is Life."

CORNEL WEST

4/13/10

**craved attention?

* First African American philosopher we have had

* Involved in arts, culture, music

* has a hip-hop cd, involved socially in music scene

4 components of prophetic thought:

- discernment
- connection w/ others (have empathy w/ other humans)
- tracking hypocrisy (self-critical manner)
- hope

An educated person... (aka "prophetic thinker") is one who lives in/ understands multiple realities, uses these realities to build bridges between/among these diff. worlds

* "face the skeletons (in our closets) as a challenge, not a conclusion"

"4 components will confront societal issues of our postmodern world"

* Important for teachers to make students believe that what they think & do makes a difference.

→ compared 9/11 to white supremacy, basically said "Now you know how the blacks felt."

→ knowledgeable in the field, keeps same beliefs for the past 10 years, relevant to us/our culture

* Socrates vs. West - non-traditional, Socrates doesn't write & West doesn't use computers.