

Background for Pope John Paul II

Aristotle

- 4 Causes –
 - Formal cause – what causes something to be something. Shape of a statue
 - Material cause – what the object is made of. Marble of the statue
 - Efficient cause – what brought the object into existence – Artist sculpting
 - Final cause – purpose for which something was created – to beautify
- Substance – the underlying principle of unity
- Accidents – the unified attributes of a substance
- Person
 - Form – soul
 - Mind- part of the soul
 - Matter – body

Rationalists vs Empiricists

- Rationalists – thought/ideas are path to knowledge, ex Descartes
- Empiricists – experience is path to knowledge, ex Bacon

Hume

- Skepticism – we cannot come to know
 - We have ideas and beliefs but we are unable to know the world
 - Things like cause and effect are illusions that we attribute through habit

Kant

- Hume awoke Kant from his “dogmatic slumber”
- Kant unites the Rationalists and Empiricists

Utilitarianism – choose which action will result in most “good.”

- Some define good as pleasure.
- Seek most pleasure avoid most pain.
- Pleasure becomes man’s ultimate goal.

Phenomenology

- Post-Kantian movement in philosophy
- The study of everyday phenomena
- Ego – the subjective mind of a person
 - Experience is perspectival
 - We recognize ourselves as subjects and everything else as objects
 - We experience objects physically through our body

Terms to Know

- A priori – knowledge we can have before experience
- A posteriori – knowledge we gain after experience
- Principle of Cause and Effect – for every cause there is an effect