

The -isms

a short and sarcastic guide

to your professor's

favorite philosophies

by the guys at



"I hate this PDF!"

- Friedrich Nietzsche, philosopher & facial hair expert

College Weekend Workshop

mod•ern•ism

You think; therefore, you are. You can't really be sure of anything else, except, of course, that God isn't real. Modernists believe that God should be placed under intense critical scrutiny, and since God doesn't fit into a test tube, chances are He doesn't exist.

post•mod•ern•ism

Everyone is right¹, no matter what anyone else thinks. If I think you're an idiot but you think you are exceptionally brilliant, we are both correct. I'm only wrong if I tell you that you are wrong, but if I accept that you are right, then I'm also right. Therefore, you can claim anything, and you are correct, as long as you don't question postmodernism itself. It sounds ridiculous, but postmodernism is one of the most popular philosophies on the college campus.

¹ This, of course, doesn't apply to Jesus

sec•u•lar hu•man•ism

Above all, secular humanism stands for free thought, open-mindedness, and the search for truth...assuming you've already chosen to reject religion and faith. Of course, being "open-minded" means thinking like a secular humanist; therefore, if you believe in God, you're a "religious bigot" (their words, not mine). Read [The Secular Humanist Declaration](#) and you'll see that nine of their ten assertions directly bash the religious.

tran•scen•den•tal•ism

Transcendentalism comes in many different flavors but they all have a common theme: God is whoever, whatever, and wherever you want Him to be. Jesus, Buddha, Jeffrey Dahmer, the Force, you, or all of the above could be God – and probably are – it just depends which transcendentalist you ask. For those who have trouble spelling transcendentalism, it's also referred to as cosmic humanism, the new age movement, and Oprah.

DID YOU KNOW?

Two of the big names in postmodernism are Friedrich Nietzsche and Michael Foucault. Nietzsche was known for dying in an insane asylum with his awesome mustache still intact. Foucault was a homosexual who liked to kill people in his spare time. You'll hear more about them in part two of this awesome guide.

DID YOU KNOW?

For all of their antagonism of organized religion, secular humanism was declared a religion by the Supreme Court in 1961, and receives tax-exempt status. Secular humanists also believe that they are a persecuted minority, even though secular humanism is the dominant philosophy taught in public schools.

HAVE YOU EVER?

Have you ever met anyone who claimed to be "spiritual" but couldn't tell you what that meant? Lucky you, you've encountered a transcendentalist.

nat•u•ral•ism

There are basically two dogmas of naturalism. First, the supernatural does not exist. Second, the scientific method is the only way to interpret truth. Naturalists will allow non-scientific concepts like philosophy to be tested using deductive reasoning, but you can't subject, say, Christianity to the same tests because the supernatural is presupposed to be false. How convenient.

a•the•ism

Atheists argue over the definition of atheism. Some say it's "not believing in God" while others claim it's "believing there is no God". Either one is a hard pill to swallow. The first definition doesn't deny God's existence; it simply states you don't believe in Him. That's like saying you don't believe in trees because you dislike raking. The second definition involves proving a universal negative ("there is no God"), which is impossible outside of categorical logic (aka – in the real world). So basically, a true atheist is forced to put faith in the non-existence of faith.

ag•nos•ti•cism

Agnostics claim that no one can know truth. Apparently, there are too many "-isms" out there, so rather than try to figure out the correct one, they reject them all and settle into sweet, sweet ignorance. Essentially, they're truth-quitters. They've given up on (or rather, never started) finding truth because they know that truth is unknowable. To demonstrate how stupid agnosticism is, let's break the word down. In the Greek, agnostic means "without knowledge". If that's not the definition of stupid, I don't know what is.

de•ism

Deism accepts that a god exists, but denies any supernatural revelation on his part. Basically, god is somewhere out there, but he doesn't really pay attention to all of us down here on earth. No, you didn't misread. That's what they believe. Yeah, I know, deism makes absolutely no sense¹, and asks more questions than it answers².

¹ Or, to appease the postmodernist, it makes *relatively* no sense

² It answers zero questions, in case you were wondering

REALITY CHECK

Naturalists pride themselves in being "scientific" despite the fact that many of science's all-stars thought naturalism was dumb. The list includes: Copernicus, Descartes, Leibnitz, Pascal, and even the naturalist poster boy, Isaac Newton.

NOT SO FAST

They may be quitters, but take it easy on them. In their defense, if the only choices out there were the ones in this guide, I'd give up, too. Fortunately for us, there is one choice that we know works. Jesus said He was the Truth.

LEARN FROM HISTORY

Many deists would have us believe the Founding Fathers were deists, too. There's just one problem with that idea. They weren't. Here's an [article by David Barton](#) explaining the religious convictions of Washington, Hamilton, Jefferson, and others.

so•cial•ism

If you watched the news during this last election, you should know what socialism is. It's the redistribution of wealth¹. In essence, the people trust the government to take everything away from everyone, and then redistribute it back to everyone equally. So, you take away people's incentive to work, and you trust them to work anyway.

According to Karl Marx, creative director of communism, the sole purpose of socialism is to be the transition stage between capitalism and communism. Basically, one day the government decides not to redistribute everyone's stuff. Then you have communism.

¹ Vote for socialism and get change! Most likely a few nickles and a quarter...if you're lucky².

² That makes cents.

com•mu•nism

Communism is what comes after socialism. You've given everything to the government, and they end up keeping it all. Now you have nothing, so in order to survive, you must submit to the government. If you don't submit, you die (or are at least tortured really good). In a perfect communist world, the government would cease to exist and everyone would live in perfect harmony singing Kumbaya around a giant campfire.

The Peoples¹ Republic of China is still waiting for that one.

¹ Is that supposed to be ironic?

mor•al rel•a•tiv•ism

Morals are like ice cream; you may have your preferred flavor but it's really all the same thing. Moral relativists believe people determine their own views of "right" and "wrong". Consequently, there is no accountability to God, government, or society, so you can pretty much do whatever you want without fear of consequences. Moral relativists like to think they're being "tolerant" of other people and cultures but really they're just looking for excuses to shirk social responsibility and make Christians sit down and shut up.

JUDGE NOT

When the lines between right and wrong are blurred, things can get a little out of hand. For instance, a professor from upstate New York reported that "10 to 20% of his students could not bring themselves to criticize the Nazi's extermination of Europe's Jews" (Shapiro, 2). That, folks, is moral relativism at its finest.

Shapiro, Ben. [Brainwashed: How Universities Indoctrinate America's Youth](#). WND Books, 2004.

u•til•i•tar•i•an•ism

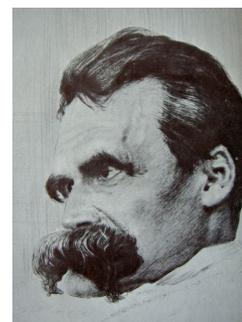
“Right” and “wrong” are mathematical functions of pleasure and pain. If an action causes more happiness than suffering, it’s good; if it doesn’t, it’s bad¹. You’d think a system of ethics based on math would get pretty consistent results, but it doesn’t. The problem with utilitarianism is it’s entirely dependent on a society’s interpretation of pleasure and pain. In other words, morality is relative. Utilitarianism is just moral relativism with a fake mustache and a pair of flimsy plastic glasses.

¹ If you find pleasure in causing people pain, you’re in quite the pickle, relatively speaking.

ex•is•ten•tial•ism

Why am I here? What is the meaning of life? Existentialists believe self-examination is the only way to answer these questions. Jesus, your pastors, or the Bible can’t help you find meaning, only you can. Oh, and by the way, that usually involves rebelling against societal norms, throwing off moral restraint, and listening to guys with major personal problems like Friedrich Nietzsche¹.

¹ Initially, Nietzsche tried to find meaning in awesome facial hair. That didn’t pan out, however, so he looked for meaning in a mental institution.



NIETZSCHE

Was I right about the mustache, or was I right about the mustache?

so there you have it.

The major –isms you’ll encounter over the next four years. Did you notice the common themes?

- They all claim to value open-mindedness but are actually closed off to opposition.
- They all require the abandonment of faith and are especially hostile towards Christianity.
- They sound intellectual but are self-refuting¹.

¹ Which is an academic way of saying they’re stupid.

Have a great time at college!

The CWW Team