

## DIVISIONS OF PHILOSOPHY



Specifically, philosophy includes five fields of study and discourse: logic, aesthetics, ethics, politics, and metaphysics.

*Logic* is the study of the ideal method in thought and research: observation and introspection, deduction and induction, hypothesis and experiment, analysis and synthesis. It contains rules for formulating arguments and ordering thought so as to come to sound conclusions.

*Aesthetics* is the study of, or expressions of theories of reasoned thought regarding the ideal form, or beauty; it is the philosophy of art.

*Ethics* is the study of ideal conduct, right and wrong; it attempts to deal with questions of "what ought to be" in regards to our behavior.

*Politics* is the study of the ideal organization of society and government; justice, monarchy, aristocracy, democracy, socialism, anarchism, feminism: these are some of the possible elements of political philosophy.

*Metaphysics* is the study of, or expressions of theories of those things that are above or beyond nature or physics; beyond the five senses, the "ultimate reality" of all things. It includes two other distinctive categories within its pale:

*Ontology*, the study of being, of *what is*; the ultimate reality of and behind 'existence' and 'matter'; and

*Epistemology*, from two Greek words: 'episteme' (knowledge) and 'logos' (speech, reasoning).

The subject explores *How* we know, or the nature and limitations of knowledge.