Philosophy is the study of the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality, and existence

The Value of Philosophy

Philosophy is to be studied, not for the sake of any definite answers to its questions, since no definite answers can, as a rule, be known to be true, but rather for the sake of the questions themselves; because these questions enlarge our conception of what is possible, enrich our intellectual imagination and diminish the dogmatic assurance which closes the mind against speculation.

British philosopher Bertrand Russell (1872-1970)

Philosophy = The Love of Wisdom

Focusing on "How to Think" not "What to Think"

Comparing Philosophic thought to Political, Religious, and Scientific thought

	Political	Religious	Scientific	Philosophical
Practitioner	Politician	Theologian (Minister, Priest, Rabbi, Imam, Monk, etc.)	Scientist	Philosopher
Reference Source of beliefs	Writings of movement founders (I.e. John Locke, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Karl Marx, US Constitution, etc.)	Religious Scripture (i.e. Bible, Quran, Torah, Vedas & Bhagavad Gita, Lotus Sutra & Dhammapada, etc.)	Published papers of all previous findings / scientists.	Writings and speeches of all sources (Socrates, Plato, Locke, Rawls, Dalai Lama, Obama, Trump, etc.)
Goal	Establish followers to gain power / control to implement their policies	Promote perceived truths to convert people and help them live better lives	Advance science in order to improve lives.	Advance knowledge to determine truth and solve problems
Method	Promote Political Party Platform and Ideologies	Promote Scripture and church doctrine.	Scientific Method	Socratic Method
Focus	What to think	What to think	How to think	How to think
Perception of others	Biased, narrow minded, superiority complex	Sees reality through a narrow point of view. superiority complex	Highly intelligent people that have trouble relating to common people	Confused, unable to come to a conclusion,
Normal Behavior	Preaching	Preaching	Trial and error to test theories and publish findings	Use thought provoking questions to advance knowledge