

SYNOPSIS OF SOME VIEWS ON TRUTH

REALISM (RATIONALISM, OBJECTIVISM)	RELATIVISM (PRAGMATISM, SUBJECTIVISM)
<p>Plato “Dialectic... is the only procedure which proceeds by the destruction of assumptions to the very first principle, so as to give itself a firm base”; Leibniz “I use two principles in demonstration, one, that whatever implies a contradiction is false, the other that a reason can be given for every truth that is not immediate or a statement of identity”; Ayer “There are two kinds of meaningful statement: analytic statements (as in mathematics) which are true by definition; and statements that can be verified by experience”; Popper “A very pernicious philosophy can be formulated in the words: ‘A man’s opinions are always determined by his economic or political interests’” and “[T]he <i>critical method of error elimination</i> is the method of science. It presupposes that we can look at our theories critically – as something outside ourselves. They are no longer our subjective beliefs – they are our objective conjectures, controlled by severe criticism, which includes tests. And criticism, and tests, are attempted refutations”; Taylor “Nothing <i>becomes</i> true or <i>ceases</i> to be true; whatever is truth at all simply <i>is</i> true. It comes to the same thing, and is perhaps more precise, to say that every meaningful statement ... is either true or else it is false; that is, its denial is true. There is no middle ground. The principle is thus appropriately called <i>the law of excluded middle</i>. It has nothing to do with what tense a statement happens to express, nor with the question for whether anyone, man or god, happens to know whether it is true or false”.</p>	<p>Protagoras “Man is the measure of all things”; Thrasymachus “I say that justice or right is simply what is in the interest of the stronger party”; Marx “The philosophers have only <i>interpreted</i> the world in various ways; the point is to <i>change</i> it” and “It is not the consciousness of men that determines their being, but, on the contrary, their social being that determines their consciousness”; Nietzsche “The criterion of truth resides in the enhancement of the feeling of power” and “All events that result from intention are reducible to the intention to increase power”; Foucault “Truth is undoubtedly the sort of error that cannot be refuted because it was hardened into an unalterable form in the long baking process of history” and “‘Truth’ is to be understood as a system of ordered procedures for the production, regulation, distribution, circulation, and operation of statements. ‘Truth’ is linked in a circular relation with systems of power which produce and sustain it, and to effects of power which it induces and which extends it. A ‘regime’ of truth”; James “The truth of an idea is not a stagnant property inherent in it. Truth <i>happens</i> to an idea. It <i>becomes</i> true, is <i>made</i> true by events. Its verity is in fact an event, a process: the process namely of its verifying itself, its <i>verification</i>. Its validity is the process of its <i>validation</i>”; Quine “I continue to think of the conceptual scheme of science as a tool, ultimately, for predicting future experience in the light of past experience The myth of physical objects is epistemologically superior to most in that it has proved more efficacious than other myths as a device for working a manageable structure into the flux of experience”.</p>

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Compiled by Alan Northover, 1992