

<b>Metaphysical way of thinking (grounded in Idealism)</b>	<b>Dialectical way of thinking (grounded in Materialism)</b>
<b>Metaphysics is an abstract way of thinking that works with general concepts and disregards particular and “unessential details.” Thinking of things in abstraction from their conditions or context - i.e. human nature.</b>	<b>Thinking, studying and understanding things as they change and develop. Human nature should be discussed in the context of a given society, human nature changes and develops depending on society.</b>
<b>Thinking of things in separation one from another – ignores interconnections and context – i.e. democracy, freedom.</b>	<b>Examines things in historical context – i.e. Democracy for whom? Freedom for whom? Freedom from what?</b>
<b>Thinking of things as though they are fixed, frozen, in a form that either ignores change and development – i.e. there will always be poverty, capitalism is forever, I went to that mtg. 2 yrs ago and it wasn’t worthwhile.</b>	<b>Thinking of things in terms of processes and change as a process where one thing becomes another – i.e. poverty, capitalism is not permanent, reform because a lot changes in 2 yrs.</b>
<b>Metaphysics regards history as a collection of events.</b>	<b>The aim of dialectics is to trace the real changes and interconnections. It thinks of things always in motion and in relationship, recognizes the contradictory, opposite tendencies in all phenomena.</b>
<b>Ignores or discounts opposition/conflicts - class society – # of people connected by different social relations – ignores fundamental opposition between exploited and exploiter.</b>	<b>Understands opposition/conflicts as key to understanding relationships and interactions, and thinking of things always in motion and in relationship. Recognizes the contradictory, opposite tendencies and phenomena.</b>
<b>There will always be poverty</b>	<b>Society has evolved to be able to provide enough food, shelter, etc for everyone. The problem is the distribution of resources.</b>
<b>Anyone that wanted a job can find work – if they would only pick themselves up by their bootstraps.</b>	<b>Cannot make sweeping statements not grounded in conditions, must explain why some people are unemployed – barriers, conditions, etc.</b>
<b>Analysis is based on feelings, opinions are presented as facts, information – subjective.</b>	<b>Analysis is the result of investigation that looks for facts or evidence to support the analysis – strives to be objective.</b>

<b>Idealism</b>	<b>Materialism</b>	<b>Mechanistic Materialism</b>	<b>Dialectical Materialism</b>
<b>Material world is dependent on a spiritual realm. Spirit, thoughts, or ideas can and do exist separately from matter.</b>	<b>Everything mental or spiritual is a product of the material world. Ideas come from the brain, which is matter.</b>	<b>MM understands the world as a complex of ready-made things and absolutes.</b>	<b>DM understands the world as a complex of processes, matter is always in motion, motion is not only external but is internal.</b>
<b>There exists a realm of the mysterious, and unknowable above, beyond, or behind what is known by perception, experience and science. There is a “higher, more real, non-material world” that determines the course of events in the material world.</b>	<b>The world, nature, society is knowable although not everything is known today. Seeks explanations in scientific terms that can be verified, and understood. There is a single world and it is material.</b>	<b>No change can happen except by the action of some external cause. Change is eternal repetition of same kinds of mechanical processes. “History repeats itself.”</b>	<b>Change is brought about first by the internal conditions, then external conditions. History might appear similar but in a new context, advancing from one stage to another with something new emerging.</b>
<b>Why are there rich people and poor people? Some people save money and are farsighted and careful, some are thriftless and stupid and they are poor because of their own mistakes.</b>	<b>Why are there rich people and poor people? The materialist worldview seeks the reason in the social and economic conditions of life.</b>	<b>Reduces the complex to the simple – whole motion of society is explained by economic changes. Racism only benefits the capitalist class.</b>	<b>Racism divides the working class but some workers benefit from racism.</b>
<b>No way out of the current state of affairs – I must just change myself and other individuals must change themselves.</b>	<b>Change is constant, no system or society is permanent, change is possible.</b>	<b>Each thing can be considered existing in separation/isolation from other things.</b>	<b>Nothing exists in isolation, separate from its conditions independent of its relationship with other things.</b>
<b>We can never solve our problems only change individuals and ideas.</b>	<b>Problems are solvable if root causes are addressed.</b>	<b>Human nature is a fixed set of characteristics.</b>	<b>Human nature is conditioned by and changes with change in economic social relations.</b>

