Philosophy general and fundamental problems

Philosophy is the study of general and fundamental problems, such as those connected with reality, existence, knowledge, values, reason, mind, and language. “This fact itself tells us something about philosophy because it informs us of philosophy’s self-reflective nature. It is part of philosophy’s task to think about itself, because philosophy is an activity whose purpose involves questioning the assumptions of every system of thought, including its own( Palmer, pg.5). Philosophy is distinguished from other ways of addressing such problems by its critical, generally systematic approach and its reliance on rational argument. And I feel like we have learned this through this class. Philosophy is divided into many

different sub-fields such as ethnic and political philosophy and metaphysics.

We talked about both ethical and political philosophy. Ethics or moral philosophy is concerned primarily with the question of the best way to live. There are three main branches of ethical thinking meta-ethics, normative ethics and applied ethics. Meta-ethics are the thoughts of origins such as good and bad. Normative ethics are the ethics how one ought to act, and what the right way to do it is. It is from this most ethical theories are generated. Lastly, applied ethics go beyond theory and apply to the idea of morality. Jeremy Bantham and John Stuart mill were two famous philosophers known mainly for promoting utilitarianism. Which went along with normative ethics and they believed it was an idea that the fundamental moral rule is to strive toward the "greatest happiness for the greatest number". Now political philosophy is the study of government and the relationship of individuals to communities including the state. “Politics are a very messy thing”(Embree

3/11/2014). This philosophy questions things like justice, law, property and the right of citizens. Politics and ethics are usually connected because they both discuss the question of what is good and how people should live. Some famous philosophers such as Plato and Aristotle, they believed that humans are political creatures and that the government was set up for them to pursue things for the good of the

community.

Metaphysics is the most common form of reality such as existence,

time, and their relationship with the mind the body and objects and their properties as a whole through processes and events. Traditional branches of this type of philosophy include cosmology, the study of the world and its entirety, and the study of being. Also within these branches are two major things we talked about in class idealism and realism. Idealism if you remember is the belief that reality is mentally constructed or otherwise immaterial while realism holds this reality, and exists independently of the mind. Now tow principles that we didn’t learn about are the particulars and universals and these go along with the study of being or ontology. Particulars are those objects that are said to exist in space and time, as contrasting to something such as numbers. Universals are properties held by multiple particulars, such as redness and gender. Realism is this philosophical position that

universals do in fact exist.

As you can see there are many branches of philosophy and we use them all. With these types of philosophy we can understand philosophy as a whole and how

to question and answer things appropriately.