

Chapter 7 Glossary

Positivism: A theory that theology and metaphysics are earlier imperfect modes of knowledge and that positive knowledge is based on natural phenomena and their properties and relations as verified by the empirical sciences.

Phrenology: The study of the conformation of the skull based on the belief that it is indicative of mental faculties and character.

Victorian Crisis of Conscience: The Crisis of Faith refers to an event in the Victorian era in which much of Europe's middle class begins to doubt what is written in the book of Genesis as a reliable source in accordance of how the universe was created.

Romanticism: Attitude or intellectual orientation that characterized many works of literature, painting, music, architecture, criticism, and historiography in Western civilization over a period from the late 18th to the mid-19th century. Romanticism can be seen as a rejection of the precepts of order, calm, harmony, balance, idealization, and rationality that typified Classicism in general and late 18th-century Neoclassicism in particular. It was also to some extent a reaction against the Enlightenment and against 18th-century rationalism and physical materialism in general. Romanticism emphasized the individual, the subjective, the irrational, the imaginative, the personal, the spontaneous, the emotional, the visionary, and the transcendental.

Noumenal: the object, itself inaccessible to experience, to which a phenomenon is referred for the basis or cause of its sense content.

Determinism: the belief that all events are caused by things that happened before them and that people have no real ability to make choices or control what happens.

Utilitarianism: the belief that a morally good action is one that helps the greatest number of people and harms the fewest number of people.

Associationism: a reductionist school of psychology that holds that the content of consciousness can be explained by the association and reassociation of irreducible sensory and perceptual elements.

Antirealism: interest in or concern for the actual or real, as distinguished from the abstract, speculative, etc.

Psychical research or parapsychology: the study of events and abilities commonly described as psychic or paranormal.

Mesmerism: hypnotic induction held to involve animal magnetism.

Subliminal self: the portion of an individual's personality that lies below or beyond the reach of his or her personal awareness.

Sensationism: a system of psychology based upon sensations as the constituent elements of all conscious experience.

Nativism: the view that certain skills or abilities are "native" or hard-wired into the brain at birth. This is in contrast to empiricism, the "blank slate" or tabula rasa view, which states that the brain has inborn capabilities for learning from the environment but does not contain content such as innate beliefs.

Materialism: the view that all things are composed of *material*, and that all emergent phenomena (including consciousness) are the result of material properties and interactions. In other words, the theory claims that our reality consists entirely of physical matter that is the sole cause of every possible occurrence, including human thought, feeling, and action.

Functionalism: a theory of the mind in contemporary philosophy, developed largely as an alternative to both the identity theory of mind and behaviourism. Its core idea is that mental states (beliefs, desires, being in pain, etc.) are constituted solely by their functional role – that is, they are causal relations to other mental states, sensory inputs, and behavioral outputs.

Behaviourism: an approach in psychology that recommends psychology ought to concern itself with the observable behavior of people and animals, not with unobservable events that take place in their minds.

Reflex Theory: An understanding of the brain led to it being seen as a reflex machine, in which the cerebrum associated sensation and action to produce behaviour.

Eye-and-Ear Method: A simple method of timing that consists of listening to ticks of a clock while observing an event and remembering the point in time at which the event occurred.

Mental Chronometry: the use of response time in perceptual-motor tasks to infer the content, duration, and temporal sequencing of cognitive operations.

Conscious Automaton Theory: Human beings, like the other animals we generally consider our inferiors, are conscious but respond as automata to our prior conditioning (within our physiological powers and limitations) in all of our apparently "willed" decisions.

Psychophysics: the analysis of perceptual processes by studying the effect on a subject's experience or behaviour of systematically varying the properties of a stimulus along one or more physical dimensions.

Dual Aspect Psychophysical Parallelism: The belief that every event in the conscious has a corresponding neural event.

Naturalism: The view of the world that takes account only of natural elements and forces, excluding the supernatural or spiritual.

Idealism: A theory that the essential nature of reality lies in consciousness or reason; a theory that only the perceptible is real.

Interactive Dualism: The position that mental phenomena are, in some respects, non-physical, or that the mind and body are not identical. Thus, it encompasses a set of views about the relationship between mind and matter, and is contrasted with other positions, such as physicalism, in the mind–body problem.

Lockean Empiricism: A theory of knowledge which states that knowledge comes only or primarily from sensory experience.

Theory of Unconscious Inference: This theory implies that human vision is incomplete and that details are inferred by the unconscious mind to create a complete picture. Some of the assumptions that the brain makes from the eye's perception are motion and depth perception. Many of us have had the experience of, due to atmospheric conditions and/or distance, of believing that we see trees or buildings shimmering or moving, or of buildings or mountains seeing closer than they really are.

Alienist: An archaic term for a psychiatrist or psychologist.