

▷ 4.1 Are You the Master of Your Fate?

◦ Determinism: The view that every event, is brought about by previous events in accordance with universal ~~and~~ causal laws that govern the world. Human Freedom is an illusion

◦ "Human Nature" - People are born with certain basic instincts that influence/determine how they behave

◦ "The Environment" - People are shaped by their environment, conditioned by their experiences to be the kind of people they are

◦ "Psychological Forces" - People are governed by psychological forces, many of them unconscious, that cause them to think/feel/act in certain ways.

◦ "Social Dynamic" - People are social creatures who are greatly influenced by the people around them.

◦ Compatibilism: The view that all events are caused. Actions are "Free" if they are the result of internal motivations

◦ Indeterminism: The view that some events are not necessarily determined by previous events in accordance with universal causal laws.

◦ Libertarianism: The view that humans are able to make authentically free choices that are not determined by previous events in accordance with universal causal laws

▷ 4.2 Determinism

◦ The universe (including biological processes) are governed by ~~a~~ causal laws, meaning humans likely are too.

◦ Determinism reached the criminal justice system... example: the case of Richard Loeb & Nathan Leopold.

◦ Baron d'Holbach - There is not room for personal freedom - will, motive, reason, etc. are determined by necessary causal laws

▷ 4.3 Compatibilism

◦ Middle ground between Determinism & Indeterminism

◦ W.F. Stace - if free will is an illusion, it makes no sense to encourage moral behavior or hold people morally responsible

◦ Unfree actions are caused by forces outside the individual

◦ Free actions are caused by an individual's personal history & motivations

◦ Kant → transcendental freedom: independent of any causal influences or events whether they be physical or psychological.

• Dennett, Daniel C: Seeking compatibility within the context of evolutionary theory + modern research between the brain + the mind

▷ 4.4 Indeterminism + Libertarianism

- "you could have chosen otherwise"
- our belief in free choice + personal responsibility infuses our beliefs in self-improvement, morality, religion + social improvement
- Universe of Possibilities!
- The ability to predict events in advance provides more reliable support for a theory