Philosophy	Originator(s)	Curricular Emphasis	Teaching Method	Character Development
Idealism: Ideas are the only true reality, the only thing worth knowing. Focus: <i>Mind</i>	Plato, Socrates	Subject matter of mind: literature, history, philosophy, religion	Teach for handling ideas: lecture, discussion	Imitating examples, heroes
Realism: Reality exists independent of human mind. World of physical objects ultimate reality. Focus: <i>Body</i>	Aristotle	Subject matter of physical world: science, math	Teach for mastery of facts and basic skills: demonstration, recitation	Training in rules of conduct
Pragmatism: Universe is dynamic, evolving. Purpose of thought is action. Truth is relative. Focus: <i>Experience</i>	Pierce, Dewey	Subject matter of social experience. Creation of new social order	Problem solving: Project method	Making group decisions in light of consequences
Existentialism: Reality is subjective, within the individual. Individual rather than external standards. Focus: <i>Freedom</i>	Sartre, Kierkegaard	Subject matter of personal choice	Individual as entity within social context	Individual responsibility for decisions and preferences
Perennialism: Focus: Teach ideas that are everlasting. Seek enduring truths which are constant, not changing, through great literature, art, philosophy, religion.	Robert Hutchins, Jacque Maritain, Mortimer Adler, Allan Bloom			
Essentialism: Focus: Teach the common core, "the basics" of information and skills (cultural heritage) needed for citizenship. (Curriculum can change slowly)	William Bagley; Arthur Bestor, E. D. Hirsch, Chester Finn, Diane Ravitch, Theodore Sizer			
Progressivism: Focus: Ideas should be tested by active experimentation. Learning rooted in questions of learners in interaction with others. Experience and student centered.	John Dewey, William Kilpatrick			
Reconstructionism/ Critical Theory Focus: Critical pedagogy: Analysis of world events, controversial issues and diversity to provide vision for better world and social change.	George Counts, J. Habermas, Ivan Illich, Henry Giroux, Paulo Freire			

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Information Processing The mind makes meaning through symbol- processing structures of a fixed body of knowledge. Describes how information is received, processed, stored, and retrieved from the mind.	R. M. Gagne, E. Gagne, Robert Sternberg, J.R. Anderson			
Behaviorism Behavior shaped by design and determined by forces in environment. Learning occurs as result of reinforcing responses to stimuli. Social Learning Learning by observing and imitating others.	Ivan Pavlov, John Watson, B.F. Skinner, E.L. Thorndike, Albert Bandura			
Cognitivism/ Constructivism Learner actively constructs own understandings of reality through interaction with environment and reflection on actions. Student-centered learning around conflicts to present knowing structures.	Jean Piaget, U. Bronfenbrenner, Jerome Bruner, Lev Vygotsky			
Humanism Personal freedom, choice, responsibility. Achievement motivation towards highest levels. Control of own destiny. Child centered. Interaction with others.	J.J. Rousseau, A. Maslow, C. Rogers, A. Combs, R. May			