



PHILOSOPHY

LESSON 4: MARXISM AND POSTMODERNISM

BEGINNING WORK

- Read 9.3 (page 204-206) in your textbook. (Philosophy, Chapter 9)
- On a separate sheet of paper, write the quote by Alexander Spirkin. Then write one paragraph on how Marxism beliefs are in conflict with this quote

PHILOSOPHY: 3 KEY QUESTIONS

- What is ultimately real? (Metaphysics)
- What does it mean to know? (Epistemology)
- With what part of our being do we contemplate these questions? (Mind/body problem)

WHAT IS ULTIMATELY REAL?

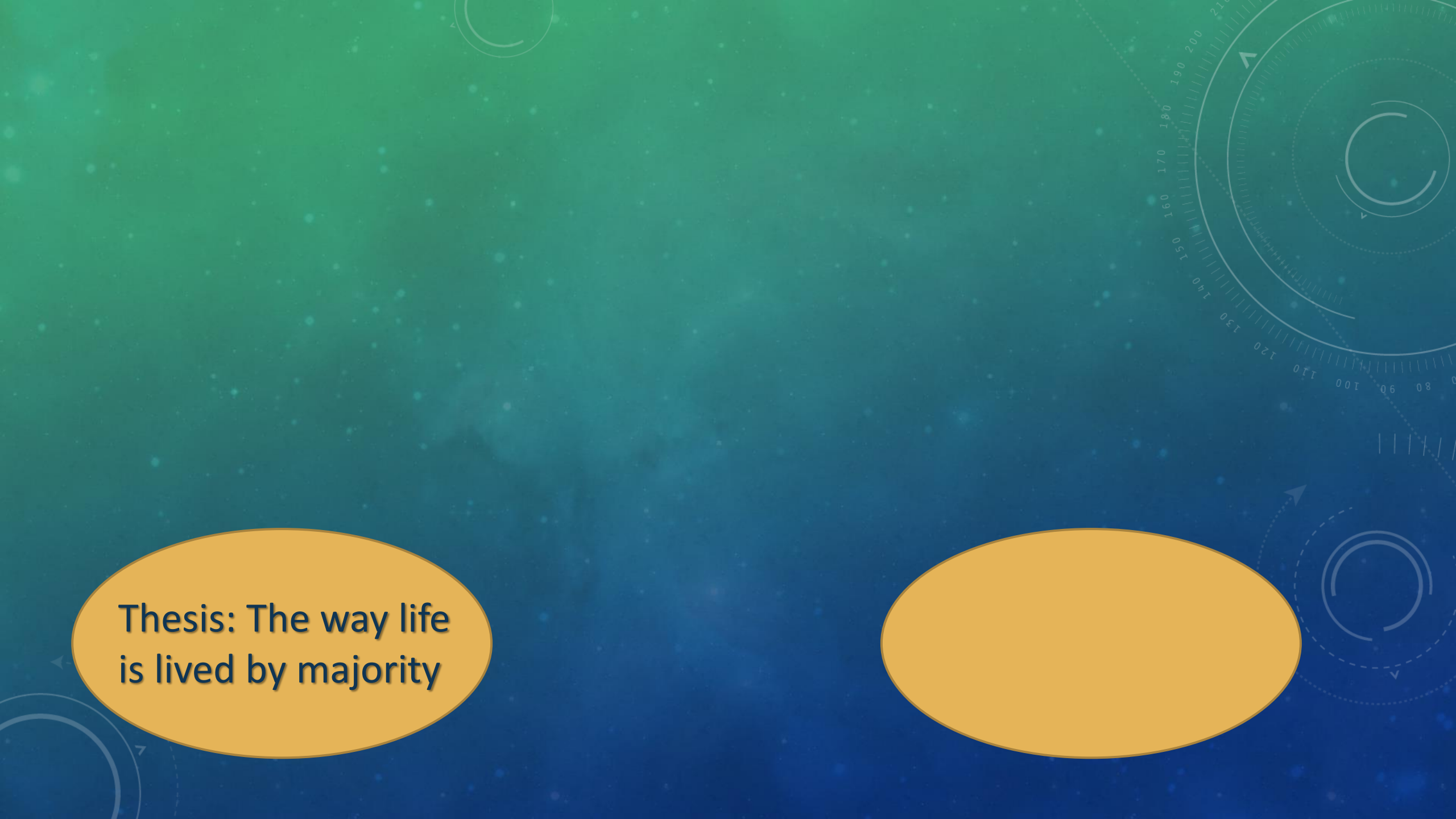
- Metaphysics: Beyond the natural things
- Epistemology: the study of knowledge
- Monists: only one reality exists (body or soul)
- Dualists: there are two natures of reality (body and soul)

MARXISM

- Metaphysics: There is no supernatural; the universe is all that exists or has ever existed
- Epistemology: puts faith in the exclusive truth of science and rejects all faith claims
- Mind/body problem: only matter exists; our brains capture images of reality, making us think we have minds

MARXISM

- The philosophy of Marxism is dialectical materialism
- Thesis and anti-thesis clash and synthesis results
- What is real, according to the Marxist, is the material universe but with a divine, dialectic quality.



Thesis: The way life
is lived by majority



Thesis: The way life
is lived by majority

The diagram features two yellow ovals on a dark blue background with faint circular patterns. The left oval contains the text 'Thesis: The way life is lived by majority'. The right oval contains the text 'Antithesis: A new way of living'. A yellow arrow points from the left oval to the right, and another yellow arrow points from the right oval to the left, indicating a reciprocal relationship between the two concepts.

Antithesis: A new
way of living

The diagram illustrates the dialectical process. At the bottom, two yellow ovals represent the 'Thesis' and 'Antithesis'. The 'Thesis' is on the left, stating 'The way life is lived by majority'. The 'Antithesis' is on the right, stating 'A new way of living'. Between them is a dark grey starburst shape. An orange arrow points upwards from the starburst to a third yellow oval at the top, which represents the 'Synthesis'.

Synthesis: a newer,
more advanced
thesis

Thesis: The way life
is lived by majority

Antithesis: A new
way of living



The diagram is set against a dark blue background with a subtle pattern of white dots and faint, stylized circular lines. At the bottom, two yellow ovals are positioned on either side of a central grey starburst. The left oval contains the text 'Capitalism; private property, bourgeoisie' and the right oval contains 'Workers (proletariat) rise up in revolution'. A large yellow arrow points upwards from the starburst towards a yellow oval at the top, which contains the text 'Communism: a classless and utopian society'.

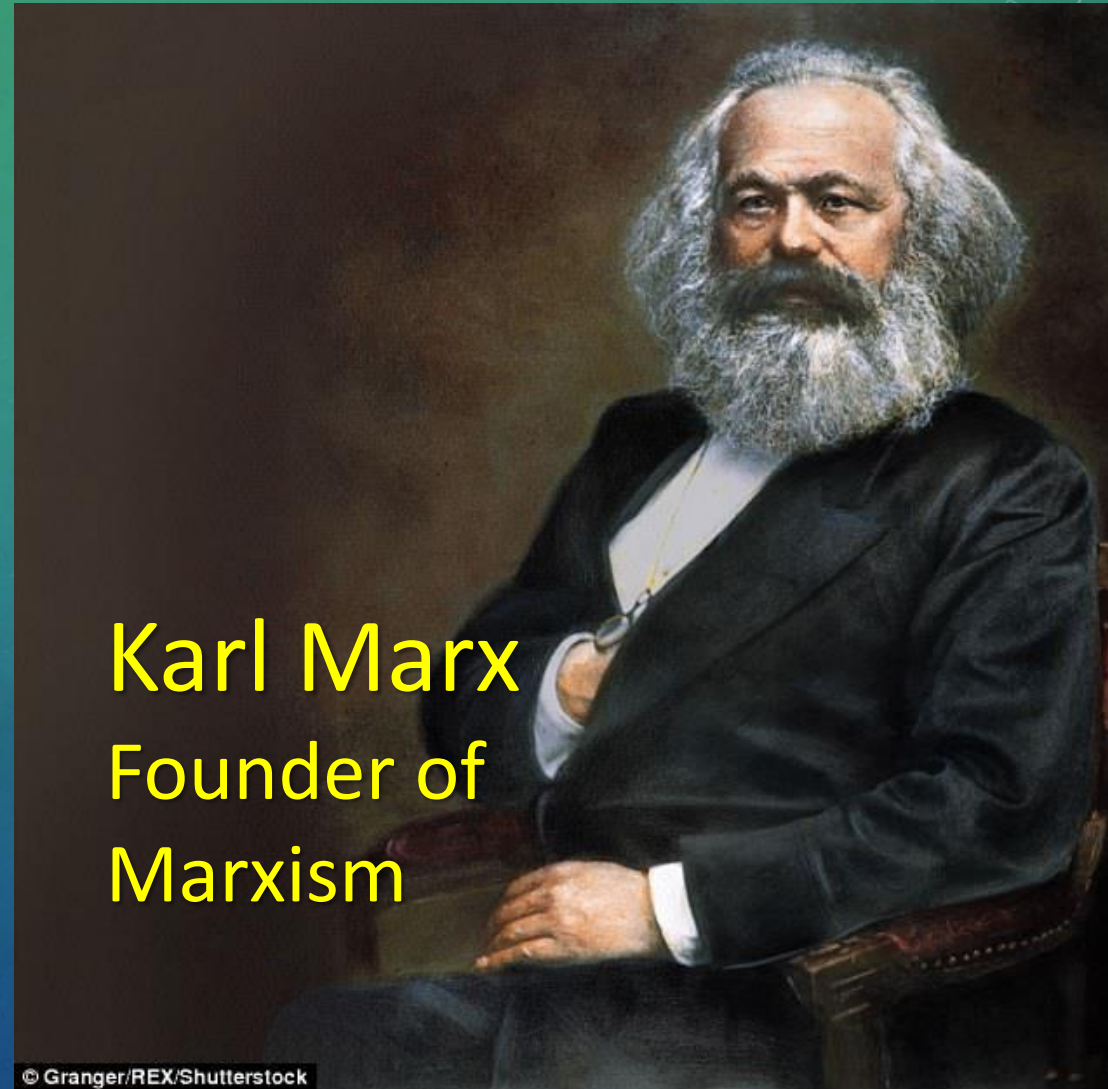
Communism: a
classless and
utopian society

Capitalism; private
property,
bourgeoisie

Workers
(proletariat) rise up
in revolution

MARXISM

“believes in order without an orderer, purpose without one who gives purpose, and justice without a transcendent standard of Good by which to know evil has been conquered”



Karl Marx
Founder of
Marxism

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ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IN ONE PARAGRAPH EACH

1. WHAT DOES POSTMODERNISM SUBSTITUTE FOR CAPITAL “T” TRUTH AS A MEANS FOR UNDERSTANDING REALITY? (9.4)
2. CAN YOU SUMMARIZE THE METAPHYSICS OF POSTMODERNIST PHILOSOPHY? (9.4)
3. CAN YOU SUMMARIZE THE EPISTEMOLOGY OF POSTMODERNIST PHILOSOPHY? (9.4)

POSTMODERNISM: METAPHYSICS

- Metaphysics: Without God as our ultimate authority; we take it upon ourselves to interpret reality
- No one interpretation can be final; everything becomes undecidable.

POSTMODERNISM: EPISTEMOLOGY

- Postmodernism rejects the correspondence theory of truth and foundationalism
- There is no universal truth; words can never signify truth

PRAGMATISM

“truth proceeds from what works rather than what is actually real”

Example: Ptolemy;
geocentrism

