

THE TWELVE QUESTIONS -
CHECKLIST FOR
PHILOSOPHY AND AMERICAN TELEVISION:
AN INTERDISCIPLINARY COURSE
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN DENMARK AT ODENSE
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1. What is the ultimate substrate of the universe, that which is most aptly regarded as basic? (Metaphysics)
2. What is the nature of whatever we accept as an answer to (1): is it mind-dependent, mind-independent, or a combination of the two? (Idealism, Materialism and Dualism)
3. What *is* there in the universe for which (1) is to provide the basis? (Ontology)
4. What criteria do we have for knowing rather than simply believing that something is the case? (Epistemology)
5. To what degree is "the way things are" predetermined? (Free will v. Determinism)
6. What is the nature of time? (Philosophy of Time)
7. How ought we behave/ What is right? (Ethics)
8. If here is a Supreme Being, what would this Being be like, given the answers we have given for (1) – (7)? (Philosophy of Religion)
9. How does language function? How does language relate to that which we regard as being reality? (Philosophy of Language)
10. What does it mean to be a human being? To be intelligent? To experience the world as a woman, a man or a member of an ethnic minority? (Feminism and "Philosophy of Race and Gender.")
11. When is something created and when is it discovered? (Philosophy of Creativity)
12. When is something a work of art? What are we doing when we engage in artistic activity? Once we have decided that something is a work of art, when is it a good one? Do we learn anything about the world by engaging in artistic activity and if so, how is this similar to and different from scientific investigation? (Aesthetics, and, for the last question, also Philosophy of Science.)