

Cassius' Latest Single Page Outline Of Epicurean Philosophy

Post by "Cassius" of December 6, 2023 at 11:09 AM

Kalosyni's [recent post about doing some forum reorganization](#) is a good time to point out that we're always going to need multiple ways to access information so it can be found quickly. Recently we implemented the "[Navigation Map](#)" on the front page, and of course the "[Forum List](#)" is itself an organized structure for filing things. We don't make an extensive use of "[Tags](#)," but that feature is available in addition to the "[Search](#)" page. It's also possible to search the forum using google (or any other search engine) and [combine EpicureanFriends.com as one of the search terms](#). [Here's an example of such a search](#).

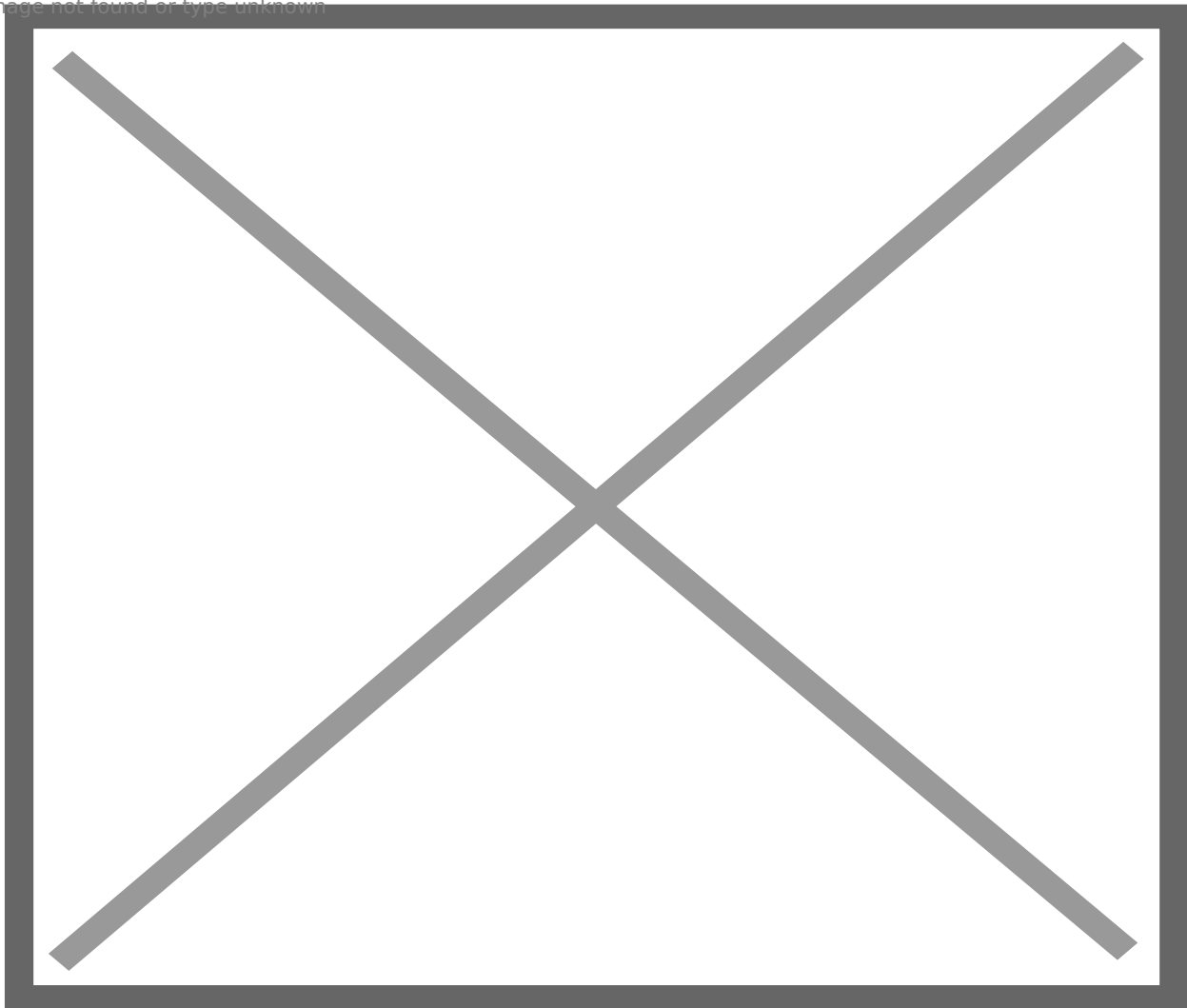
For my personal use, I always continue to work on a personal outline with the aim of quickly being able to zoom back and forth between the big picture and the individual details, including citations. The latest version of this [outline is here](#), and I am happy to release it for public use and comment. I intend to continue working on this format to increase the level of detail and improve the citations, some of which are not yet finished at all, so I welcome comments in this thread that I can use to improve it.

I frequently move back and forth between software programs as to how to make this more effective, and I'll probably take the same data over time and release it in other formats. In the meantime this format is probably going to look best on a cellphone/tablet "portrait" format, rather than a wide-screen computer display. I think the purpose of an outline like this is consistent with the idea of using it mainly on a portable device, so this format should work well for that screen size. Over time we can fiddle with the html if desired and make it more attractive.

Here's a direct link:



Image not found or type unknown



[Epicurean Philosophy Navigation Outline](#)

Basic Aspects of Epicurean Philosophy.
handbook.epicureanfriends.com

Here's a version where a word-search on the page works much more easily. The collapsible version now has a link at the top of the page which will take you to [this "alternate" page view](#).

Welcome To The EpicureanFriends Navigation Outline!

- This outline is provided by EpicureanFriends.com. You can always find the latest version, ask questions, and discuss it [here](#)!!
- This outline is structured to provide "enough" to give one the most essential comprehension of the stuff.
- Each heading presents a single high-level point. Any arrowhead symbol can be clicked to open up additional detail. This allows easy movement between the big picture and the details. As Epicurus wrote to Herodotus, "Indeed it is necessary to go back on the main principles, and carefully to go in each necessary enough to give one the most essential comprehension of the truth, and in fact the accurate knowledge of details will be fully discovered, if the general principles in the various departments are thoroughly grasped and borne in mind, for even in the case of one fully initiated the most essential feature in all accurate knowledge is the capacity to make a rapid use of observation and mental apprehension, and this can be done if everything is summed up in elementary principles and formulas. For it is not possible for anyone to abbreviate the complete course through the whole system, if he cannot embrace in his own mind by means of short formulae all

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Welcome To The EpicureanFriends Navigation Outline
Epicurean Terminology Frequently Asked Questions
Epicurean Philosophy Includes Physics, Canonics, and Ethics

Definitions and Clarifications. The following terms and phrases carry special meaning and significance in Epicurean philosophy:
"God" does not refer to supernatural, omniscient, omnipotent, or many of the other things people often think about God.
"Pleasure" includes but is not limited to the sense and appreciation of good food and body.
"Freedom of Fate" means the same thing as "fatum."
"The highest pleasure" means your whole experience is filled with pleasure unobscured by any pain.
"Virtue" is a habit of living happily and not an end in itself.

To repeat: additions, subtractions, clarifications, suggestions, etc., are welcome, especially as to citations to include under each bullet point. This will always be a "work in progress."

Post by “Godfrey” of December 6, 2023 at 11:40 AM

That's a great resource [Cassius](#) !

Post by “Bryan” of December 6, 2023 at 1:09 PM

This is great, thank you!

As Epicurus said "those who have advanced sufficiently in observing the impression of the whole still must remember the arrangement of the whole topic -- therefore we often need the condensed view, but the particulars, not as frequently." [DL 10.35b]

Post by “TauPhi” of December 6, 2023 at 3:25 PM

It may be work in progress but it's already a brilliant outline. I spent some time today going through it and I'm seriously impressed. From now on if someone ever asks me what Epicurean philosophy is, they are getting link to this. Thanks for putting it together [Cassius](#).

Post by “Kalosyni” of December 6, 2023 at 4:36 PM

Thank you Cassius for posting...I definitely want to use this to create a personal "Kalosyni version" and may use the platform [Tiddlywiki](#)

Post by “Eoghan Gardiner” of December 6, 2023 at 5:14 PM

Wow!!!! Thank you, that page is instantly bookmarked.

Post by “TauPhi” of December 8, 2023 at 9:45 PM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

To repeat: additions, subtractions, clarifications, suggestions, etc., are welcome, especially as to citations to include under each bullet point. This will always be a "work in progress."

As I've mentioned above, I like this outline a lot so I'd like to contribute to it a little, if possible. This is kinda big but also kinda debatable. Whether it's worth including in the outline, I leave it to you [Cassius](#).

It's about Canonics and possible forth criterion of truth. As it stands for now, and quite rightly, you describe Canonics as 'Knowledge Can Be Obtained Through the Sensations, Anticipations, and Feelings.'

These three are well established:

sensations - *aistheseis*

anticipations - *prolepseis*

feelings - *pathe*

There is, however, possible forth criterion:

mind perceptions - *phantastikai epibolai tes dianoiias*

It is mentioned both in Letter to Herodotus [51] and Principal Doctrine #24. Whether Epicurus treated this criterion as a fully-fledged, legitimate forth criterion is not clear. Some scholars say he did and it was added to the Canon later by him and some scholars believe Epicurus didn't treat this criterion on a par with the remaining three. We probably won't ever know for sure but since Epicurus himself talks about it, I think it is beneficial for everyone to be familiar with it.

Post by “Cassius” of December 9, 2023 at 3:55 AM

Great suggestion and I will add that in!

Post by “Cassius” of December 9, 2023 at 6:50 AM

Added under the second bullet point of the [Canonics section](#):

Diogenes Laertius 31: "Thus in The Canon Epicurus says that the tests of truth are the sensations and anticipations and the feelings; the Epicureans add to these the intuitive apprehensions of the mind." Direct perceptions of the mind (phantastikai epibolai tes dianoias) are mentioned in the Letter to Herodotus [51] and Principal Doctrine #24, but the remaining texts are unclear as to how direct perceptions of the mind relate to the sensations (aistheseis), anticipations (prolepseis), and feelings (pathe).

Thanks Tau Phi.

Post by “Don” of December 9, 2023 at 7:05 AM

fwiw, here's a 3-year-old post related to this topic:

Post

[PD24 - Commentary and Translation of PD 24](#)

Principal Doctrine 24 (PD 24) is one of the more convoluted doctrines with multiple phrases and conjunctions. I would like to provide some commentary and break the doctrine down into manageable words and phrases for everyone to get a more coherent understanding of what Epicurus was communicating. You may also want to take a look at [this doctrine's page on the Epicurus Wiki](#):

First the original text:

[...]

Now, let's break it down before we put it all back together. I'll provide a (mostly) literal...



Don

September 2, 2020 at 11:56 PM

Post by “Cassius” of December 9, 2023 at 5:43 PM

Just for what it's worth I've reached a sort of milestone today of getting at least one citation in the outline for each of the major bullet points. In most cases I have several, but there's definitely a lot more to add.

After stops and starts through the years this version of the outline has built on past efforts and on contributions of citations from lots of people, and I'll work to continue to expand it and make it available in different formats.

Thanks for the contributions so far as I think this will be very useful over time.

[Epicurean Philosophy Navigation Map](#)

On my list of things to do is to figure out how to add what I think is a "meta" tag that will provide a link to a "snapshot" picture of the outline, so that when the above link is shared those browsers that know how to it will provide a snapshot (maybe it's called [a card view or something like that](#)) rather than a raw URL.

Seems to work now on Twitter and Facebook but not here yet --



Post by “Cassius” of December 10, 2023 at 5:41 PM

I realized that a limitation of the outline generator I am using that looks best in "portrait" mode (for phones) is that the text on the page is not easily searchable if the outline is not expanded.

Here's a version where a word-search on the page works much more easily. The collapsible version now has a link at the top of the page which will take you to this "alternate" page view.

The screenshot shows a webpage layout. On the left, there is a section titled "Welcome To The EpicureanFriends Navigation Outline!" with a list of bullet points explaining the site's structure and navigation. On the right, there is a "TABLE OF CONTENTS" section with a search icon, listing various topics like "Epicurean Terminology" and "Definitions and Clarifications" with corresponding page numbers.

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- Each heading presents a single high-level point. Any arrowhead symbol can be clicked to open up additional detail. This allows easy movement between the big picture and the details. An Epicurean avoids the temptation "to look it is necessary to go back on the main principles, and constantly to go to one's memory enough to give one the most essential comprehension of the truth, and in fact the accurate knowledge of details will be fully discovered, if the general principles in the various departments are thoroughly grasped, and known in mind, for even in the case of one fully initiated the most essential feature in all accurate knowledge is the capacity to make a rapid use of observation and mental apprehension, and this can be done if everything is summed up in elementary principles and formulas. For it is not possible for anyone to assimilate the complete course through the whole system, if he cannot embrace in his own mind by means of about 500 words all

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"Good" and "bad" are not supernatural, mysterious, unchangeable, or any of the other things people often think about them.

"Honest" includes but is not limited to the sense and appreciation of sound mind and body.

"Wishes of Fate" means the same thing as "fate."

"The highest pleasure" means one whole experience or that with pleasure unfolded in any form.

"Honor" is a quality being happily without an end in itself.