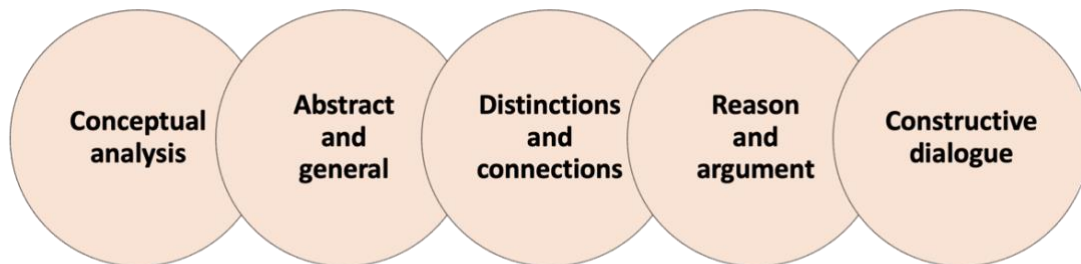


## Reading

- Aristotle, *De Interpretatione*, Book ix

## The Philosophy Toolkit



## Fate

- How do you understand the concept of **fate**? How is it related to other concepts like **destiny**, **choice**, and **control**?

## Fatalism

In philosophy there are various positions known as **fatalism** that have been discussed. Here are two kinds of fatalism:

- **Metaphysical Fatalism**: the course of events is inevitable or necessary, including the human acts we regard as “free” acts.
- **Theological Fatalism**: God’s omniscience means that God has foreknowledge of every future human act, even those we regard as “free” acts.

Is the future actually fixed now? Is there a determinate path that events absolutely must take, whether we like it or not? Fatalists say yes. The Ancient Greek Philosopher **Aristotle** discussed these issues. He was interested in, though didn’t accept, this argument:

It seems to be necessary that either there will be sea battle tomorrow or there won’t be. So, the future must be fixed now. It’s just that we don’t know which way it will go – we don’t *know* whether there will be a sea battle or there won’t be, but the matter is fixed now.

## Consciousness

Consciousness is a big topic in itself, but there is a big question which links consciousness and fatalism:

- If fatalism is true, then why do we have a conscious experience of freedom – why does it feel as if we do things out of choice? Does this serve a function?
- The Early Modern Philosopher **Rene Descartes** prompted us to imagine that all of our conscious experience was deceptive, and the result of some evil God or demon (he didn’t believe this, but considered it as a possibility). If Fatalism is true, isn’t our conscious experience actually like Descartes had us imagine? Aren’t we in the Matrix?
- How can we relate the themes of fate, fatalism, and consciousness (including Matrix consciousness) to **mental health**?