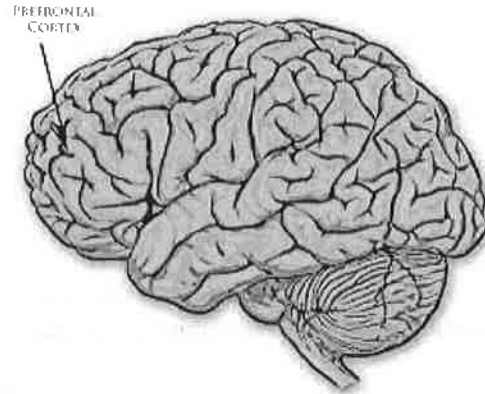


Peninsula College and Wesley Cecil
present
***The Uses of Philosophy for Living: The Well
Formed Mind***



Tool Use and Civilization

2.6 Million Years ago Lower Paleolithic: Early stone tools, possible controlled use of fire by 1.6 million bp, definitive evidence by 300,000 bp.

200,000 Years ago Middle Paleolithic: Significant leap in quality of stone tool technology, larger set of tools and more sophisticated control of fire.

50,000 Years ago the Upper Paleolithic: Increasingly sophisticated and diverse tools. Widespread creation of art. Larger communal groups.

10,000 Agricultural Revolution: Large population concentrations become possible, advent of modern civilizations.

Development of the Mind

Very young children make accurate inferences from experience and evidence

By around 6-8 years of age children begin to develop an understanding that other people may perceive and respond to evidence differently and can begin to reason in a limited fashion. Around the onset of puberty, abstract reasoning and 'executive' cognition begins rapid development and is complete around age 25.

How our Minds are Formed: Language, Food, Environment, Family, Friends, Education, Experiences, Patterns of Sleeping and Eating, History, Religion, Gender Perceptions . . . all before we can effectively reflect upon and analyze these influences.

So Ask Yourself:

What are some of my earliest memories?

What are some of the key experiences I remember from childhood?

When do you remember coming into conflict with your 'environment' and why?

How would all of these experiences have been different if I were born in Renaissance Florence or Heian Kyoto?

Un-forming the Mind

"A very popular error – having the courage of one's convictions: Rather it is a matter of having the courage for an attack upon one's convictions." Nietzsche

"The Plays the thing wherein I'll catch the conscience of the King!" Hamlet

"Whoever makes it a rule to test action by thought and thought by action cannot falter and if he does will soon find his way back to the right road." Goethe

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Next lecture: October 20th