Main ideas

1. Paul Holbach -The illusion of free will
   1. Our behavior is dependent on previous events/received ideas
   2. He can resist a desire, IF he reflects on the consequences
   3. You are like a machine: It represents how every action has a predictable (but complicated) reasoning
   4. Socrates: top tier human who is wise also said u don’t really have free will, as he went thru prison and stuff
2. Steven Pinker -Blank slate
   1. Identical twins have same genes, and experience determines only half of their behavior... character is partly heritable
      1. Genes are due to chance, so genes don’t **determine** everything
      2. He believes experience (including in the wound) determine actions
   2. Psychopathy is based on genes that u cant control
      1. Or early brain damage…
   3. Genes + experience in wound determines much of our actions
   4. Doesn’t believe in a blank slate bc of genes
   5. Also uses machine/techy language
   6. He thinks you have some wiggle room for choice, and genes and parents and society isn’t all to blame
3. Kwame -The case against character
   1. Globalists – consistent character in each situation. Situationalist is not consistent, therefore also inconsisrent morals in different situations
   2. FAE – we think we live in a globalist world when ppl have situationalist traits
   3. Situationalist cons: kinda sad, makes u feel less virtuous, but also is kinda good that its predictable and preventable
   4. Virtue- Living life the best
   5. Mentions John Doris, Gilbert Harman, Owen Flanagan
4. Skinner – Walden two
   1. Reinforcement theory: salesmen, schools, churches etc. use it
   2. We have a feeling of freedom, but not truly
   3. Rather we should make people good using *positive reinforcement*
      1. Its better than punishment because the person has a sense of freedom
   4. Unresolved dictatorship problem
5. Robert Kane – Free will: Ancient Despute, new Themes
   1. Indeterminism (chance dependent) and determinism(pre chosen faith)
   2. ppl say for free will, you need indeterminism. Some say theres another unknown thing that affects it. He proposes a new idea:
   3. Self forming actions: Choices we make ourselves doesn’t have to be undetermined, but actions that make us who we are (like Aristotle suggested)
      1. These happen when we have to make difficult choices, and we make those choices with an arbitrary reason
      2. If you had the intention and can be held responsible, and you *succeed*, you are responsible for it
   4. For us to be able to “cant surely choose” between difficult options, we depend on our brain’s parallel processing feature
   5. Arbitrary = free judgement of the will
6. Jean-PaulSartre – Existentialism
   1. Existentialism: you are responsible for yourself and u are a free agent, atheistic
      1. Subjectivism: person makes themselves and what they set a goal as to be, but they also have human subjectivity limits
   2. When you choose yourself, you also create an image of a man that you want to be
   3. Nothing can be good for you if its not good for everyone. Your decisions involve the whole society/humanity
   4. Existence precedes essence: your image is more important than what u want
   5. Anguish: people assume the bad things you do aren’t done by everyone, and don’t consider the consequences if everyone does think that way
      1. Its about taking responsibility or staying inactive (quetism) as well
   6. Forlornness: There’s no God!! AHHHH!! and no one to determine what is good, oh no! No one to rely on..
   7. People are free bc no God or godly values, but also condemned bc they didn’t make themselves. We have no excuses for our actions
   8. Future is unknown and unseen until its present
7. Eagleman – The brain on trial
   1. Biological factors make blameworthiness (especially in court) questionable
      1. Then who do we blame? How do we prevent these?
      2. When we learn more about biology, every murder could be “okay” and simply a genetic/situational influence!!?!
   2. Case studies:
      1. Whitman gets a tumor in amygdala, becomes murderous
      2. Alex is a sexual pedo bc he got a tumor in his orbitofrontal cortex