



Glossary

Agnotology: study of ignorance (absence of knowledge).

Curriculum: topics and skills covered in a course of study (a year, grade, or degree in education). Curriculum comprises texts and activities deemed necessary to attain mastery of a specific set of skills or a degree. Curricula (*plural*) are defined by educational authorities; on the primary and, in some cases, secondary level, this is often done by governments, while universities tend to set their own curricula. While curricula are explicit on this level, there is often talk about 'the hidden curriculum', which contains ideological assumptions of its creators.

Ideology: set of ideas, usually shared or put forward by members of a particular social or political class. Marx argued that ideas, in this sense, are an outcome of the material conditions of their creators, with the ruling class usually imposing their ideology as dominant.

Realism: approach to knowledge that holds it is possible to establish objective truths about reality.

Relativism: approach to knowledge that holds truths are always dependent on the context – for instance, social or historical context. Moral relativism holds that this is the case for moral judgments.

Social epistemology: the study of the relationship between social processes and ways of knowing.

Sociology of knowledge: the study of the social aspects of knowledge, in the broadest sense

Sociology of education: the study of systems of education, the relationship between social structure and educational content, institutions, and practices.

Sociology of science and technology: the study of the creation of scientific knowledge and the development of technology, and its effects on societies.