

## Advanced Seminars on *Objectivism: The Philosophy of Ayn Rand*

By Leonard Peikoff

This course was presented during the summers of 1990 and 1991, as Leonard Peikoff worked through the text of special prepublication editions of his book *Objectivism: The Philosophy of Ayn Rand*.

Since the final editing of the book was completed after these presentations, page numbers given in the taped course differ from page numbers referred to in the prepublication editions (galleys).

A cross-reference guide has been provided to assist you in matching the quote and the cited page in the recorded course to the corresponding page in Dr. Peikoff's published book.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**Lesson Quote** refers to what Dr. Peikoff says in the lecture.

**Cited Page** refers to the page number given in the recorded course (from the unpublished text of the book).

**OPAR Page** refers to the page number in the 1991 publication (HC) of *Objectivism: The Philosophy of Ayn Rand* by Leonard Peikoff.

<b>Lesson 1 Quotes</b>	<b>Cited Page</b>	<b>OPAR Page</b>
"If existence exists, then it has metaphysical primacy."	p. 30	p. 23
"Whenever men expect reality to conform to their wish . . ."	p. 40	p. 29
"The concept [of existence] does not specify that a physical world exists."	p. 2	p. 5
"'Existence' differentiates a thing from nothing . . ."	p. 5	p. 7
"On the one hand, implicit knowledge is real knowledge."	p. 7	p. 8
"Important paragraph . . . about the tomato . . ."	p. 7	p. 8
"If reality without your help doesn't convince a person . . ."	p. 13	p. 12
"This has to be the foundation. First there is something."	p. 2	p. 4–5
"Before you can know anything, one must be conscious."	p. 3	p. 7
"Before you can ask about anything, it must be something."	p. 6	p. 7
"Even the enemies of an axiom must use it."	p. 9	p. 9
"Entity is not universal – or at least, we don't know that it's universal."	p. 14	p. 13
"A consciousness conscious of nothing but itself . . ."	p. 4	p. 6
"All entities are reducible ultimately to combinations."	p. 14	p. 13
"To grasp 'identity' and (later) 'consciousness' . . . even in implicit . . ."	p. 13	p. 12
"You shake your rattle . . ."	p. 16	p. 14
"Now, ideally, I wouldn't include that on Heisenberg . . ."	p. 20	p. 16
"Cause and effect is not a metaphysical afterthought."	p. 21	p. 17

<b>Lesson 2 Quotes</b>	<b>Cited Page</b>	<b>OPAR Page</b>
"From the outset, consciousness presents itself as something."	p. 22	p. 18
"An axiom is a statement necessarily contained in all others."	p. 11	p. 11
"'The universe as a whole' as an uncaused entity . . ."	p. 19	p. 16
"If existence is independent of consciousness, knowledge . . ."	p. 25	p. 20
"Nothing is relevant to cognition of the world, except . . ."	p. 25	p. 20
"Exceptions to the primacy of consciousness in Western . . ."	p. 27	p. 21
"Attempts to construe existence as a subordinate realm . . ."	p. 27	p. 21
"In regard to fundamentals, it makes no difference."	p. 30	p. 23
"The metaphysically given is reality."	p. 34	p. 25
"But if living organisms are mortal . . ."	p. 37	p. 27
"An act of choice, by its nature, could have been otherwise."	p. 33	p. 25
"No alternative to a fact of reality is possible . . ."	p. 31	p. 23
"Leaving aside the man-made, nothing is possible except . . ."	p. 38	p. 28
"The thinker who rejects the absolutism of reality . . ."	p. 39	p. 28
"Self-evident is a logical term . . ."	p. 17	p. 15
"If that which you perceive does not exist . . ."	p. 4	p. 6
"There is no valid reason to struggle to reduce consciousness."	p. 49	p. 34–39

**Lesson 3 Quotes****Cited Page****OPAR Page**

---

"The equation of physics with science is groundless."	p. 49	p. 35
"Consciousness is only a faculty of awareness."	p. 67	p. 46
"The function of the senses is to sum up, to condense."	p. 57	p. 40–41
"One can, therefore, 'think about nothing.'"	p. 58	p. 41
"Sensory qualities are the object as perceived."	p. 67	p. 46
"We can only perceive reality through our senses."	p. 69	p. 47
"Man perceives reality directly."	p. 74	p. 51
"A complex past mental content of yours is implicit."	p. 77	p. 53

<b>Lesson 4 Quotes</b>	<b>Cited Page</b>	<b>OPAR Page</b>
"The state of a goal-directed mind committed to attaining full . . ."	p. 83	p. 56
"Now, according to Objectivism, the choice to focus is irreducible."	p. 88	p. 59
"There is no such 'why.'"	p. 88	p. 60
"The principle of causality does not apply."	p. 95	p. 64
"Such is the choice which controls."	p. 98	p. 66
"Kant's: 'God, freedom, immortality' . . ."	p. 107–108	p. 72
"The faculty of reason <i>is</i> the faculty of volition."	p. 108	p. 72
"In one, <i>he doesn't work to see</i> , to connect . . ."	p. 90	p. 61
"There are degrees of awareness."	p. 83	p. 56
"The fact that the choice to focus or not is a primary."	p. 88	p. 60
"If you are characteristically in focus . . ."	p. 88	p. 60
"The question is saying there's a paragraph on causality . . ."	p. 95	p. 64
"This is the application of causality to consciousness . . ."	p. 102	p. 68
"In regard to action, man's choice . . ."	p. 99	p. 66
"They are very closely related in this context . . ."	p. 105	p. 70

Lesson 5 Quotes	Cited Page	OPAR Page
"The two processes . . . have the same essential purpose."	p. 123	p. 82
" <i>Commensurable</i> "	p. 124	p. 83
"The grasp of similarity is the mind's grasp of a mathematical fact."	p. 127	p. 85
"Numerical measurement requires a substantial conceptual development."	p. 127	p. 86
"The big paragraph . . . is the answer."	p. 128	p. 86
"A form of measurement makes concept formation . . ."	p. 129	p. 87
"Concepts are to their instances as algebraic symbols . . ."	p. 134–135	p. 90
"I mention there Ayn Rand's unfinished work . . ."	p. 163	p. 109
"By 'so far,' I mean up to this point in this section."	p. 129	p. 87
"If you didn't have words, but focused on a group . . ."	p. 177	p. 78
"Integration is the process of uniting elements."	p. 115	p. 77
"In the world apart from man there are no units."	p. 113	p. 76
"Abstraction is the power of selective focus."	p. 116	p. 78
"The word is the body."	p. 118	p. 79
"The mental process consists in retaining . . ."	p. 123	p. 83
"The child's mind omits all particular measurements."	p. 124	p. 84
"(many of which he is not aware of at the time)"	p. 125	p. 84
"The mind doesn't omit measurements of which it is ignorant."	p. 126	p. 84
"To learn how to express, in numerical terms . . ."	p. 129	p. 86
"Even though we omit . . . we do not create distortion."	p. 133	p. 89
"Emotional metaphors . . . cancer . . ."	p. 132	p. 88

<b>Lesson 6 Quotes</b>	<b>Cited Page</b>	<b>OPAR Page</b>
"Concepts of consciousness . . ."	p. 135	p. 92
"The size of the first process is much greater."	p. 140	p. 94
"(content is a measurable attribute)"	p. 139	p. 93
"A definition in terms of genus and differentia is like . . ."	p. 144	p. 97
"Definitions are determined by the facts of reality."	p. 148	p. 99
"It names that which makes man man."	p. 149	p. 100
"(and a fundamental integrating characteristic)"	p. 150	p. 100
"A concept is not interchangeable with its definition."	p. 153	p. 102
"A concept designates existents, including all . . ."	p. 153	p. 102
"A concept, once formed, does not change."	p. 155	p. 104
"Definition of 'essential' . . ."	p. 144	p. 97
"Paragraph with slashes . . ."	p. 160	p. 107
"A blur or a spread . . ."	p. 157	p. 106
"Consciousness is finite."	p. 157	p. 106
"If only I could squeeze the countless . . ."	p. 159	p. 107
"A word is worth a thousand pictures."	p. 159	p. 107
"Compression of content to make room for broader . . ."	p. 161	p. 108

<b>Lesson 7 Quotes</b>	<b>Cited Page</b>	<b>OPAR Page</b>
"The concept of 'objective' . . ."	p. 164–165	p. 111
"Concepts are condensations formed . . . with a human method."	p. 166–167	p. 112
"Objectivity as volitional adherence to reality . . ."	p. 173	p. 116
"To achieve by deliberate policy . . ."	p. 173	p. 116
"Man is not automatically right."	p. 173	p. 117
"To be objective in one's conceptual activities . . ."	p. 174	p. 117
"If man knew everything about reality . . ."	p. 179	p. 120
"How is man to know if he's contradicting . . ."	p. 186	p. 125
"She is the first thinker to identify . . ."	p. 226–227	p. 150
"The conceptual consciousness must focus on reality."	p. 175	p. 117
"To derive a conclusion from arbitrary premises . . ."	p. 178	p. 119
"Logic as a 'personal, practical, selfish necessity' . . ."	p. 179	p. 120
"Perception is a form of apprehending identity."	p. 175	p. 118
"Human knowledge on every level is relational."	p. 182–183	p. 122
"To cut off a single field from the rest . . ."	p. 190	p. 127
"The more you learn, the more you know."	p. 192	p. 128

<b>Lesson 8 Quotes</b>	<b>Cited Page</b>	<b>OPAR Page</b>
"Metaphysically, there is only one universe."	p. 183	p. 123
"Concepts are a relational form of knowledge."	p. 181	p. 121
"A hierarchy is a type of context."	p. 197	p. 132
"The relational nature of knowledge derives from two roots."	p. 183	p. 123
"Items differ in their distance from the perceptual."	p. 195	p. 131
"A body of persons or things ranked in grades . . ."	p. 195	p. 131
"Every fact . . . imposes an obligation."	p. 198	p. 132
"Definition of 'reduction'"	p. 199	p. 133
"Standard of objectivity . . ."	p. 200	p. 133
"Conceptual roots . . ."	p. 203	p. 135
"Proof is a form of reduction."	p. 206	p. 138
"It is not a proof of something."	p. 207	p. 138
"A double check on his accuracy . . ."	p. 208	p. 138
"How can I be sure there are rocks."	p. 210	p. 140
"Philosophy is hierarchical and so is Objectivism."	p. 211	p. 141
"You can get to 'organism' through one sequence."	p. 197	p. 132
"The intrinsicists want to obey reality."	p. 216	p. 144
"Three approaches defined in parallel sentences . . ."	p. 217	p. 144
"Good in theory, but does not work in practice . . ."	p. 223	p. 148
"The mind/body dichotomy . . ."	p. 224	p. 148–149
"Invalid concepts . . ."	p. 205	p. 137



<b>Lesson 9 Quotes</b>	<b>Cited Page</b>	<b>OPAR Page</b>
"It begins with facts, that's the sensory data . . ."	p. 228–229	p. 153
"Everywhere I look at the mind-body dichotomy in all its forms . . ."	p. 237–238	p. 158
"Man's conclusions have the power."	p. 238	p. 158
"Emotion is a faculty, not of perception, but of . . ."	p. 238	p. 159
"Percept, concept, logic . . ."	p. 241	p. 160
"Unanalyzed emotion compared to floating abstraction . . ."	p. 242	p. 161
"If you have a clash between your feelings and your thoughts . . ."	p. 243	p. 162
"An arbitrary statement has no relation to man's means."	p. 247	p. 164
"One cannot allow into the realm of cognition . . ."	p. 248	p. 165
"What it <i>created</i> was not truth or falsehood."	p. 250	p. 166
"Agnosticism . . ."	p. 256	p. 169–170
"You cannot reach truth by accident."	p. 257	p. 171
"The parrot did not create truth or falsehood."	p. 249	p. 165
"In essence this is the traditional correspondence theory of truth"	p. 248	p. 165
"Mental grasp of a fact or facts of reality reached either by . . ."	p. 275	p. 182
" <i>Relationships are not the enemy of absolutism.</i> "	p. 264	p. 175
"Since we would know nothing that <i>makes</i> it so . . ."	p. 265	p. 175
"If you want to know that something is evidence . . ."	p. 266	p. 176
"The concept of 'certainty' designates knowledge from . . ."	p. 270	p. 178
"Why you cannot compromise between reason and emotionalism."	p. 279	p. 184–185

<b>Lesson 10 Quotes</b>	<b>Cited Page</b>	<b>OPAR Page</b>
"Living Organisms as Goal Directed and Conditional."	p. 283	p. 189
"The difference between matter and living organisms . . ."	p. 286	p. 190–191
"Man cannot function or survive."	p. 286	p. 194
"The conclusion is evident."	p. 287	p. 195
"The industrial revolution . . ."	p. 287	p. 195
"The principle of mind/body integration . . ."	p. 288	p. 197
"Mindless recitation of truths . . ."	p. 290	p. 198
"A rational being's tool of survival is . . ."	p. 292	p. 202
"The individual is <i>sovereign</i> ."	p. 292	p. 202
"Nature vs. nurture . . ."	p. 293	p. 204
"Free will . . ."	p. 294	p. 204

<b>Lesson 11 Quotes</b>	<b>Cited Page</b>	<b>OPAR Page</b>
"Existence is <i>the</i> metaphysical fundamental."	p. 297	p. 209
"Only self-preservation can be an ultimate goal."	p. 298	p. 211
"Man needs to act <i>long-range</i> ."	p. 300	p. 214
"Array of human choices . . ."	p. 303	p. 217
"Values as objective . . ."	p. 320	p. 241
"The good is . . . in relation to man."	p. 321	p. 241
"Morality is the instruction manual."	p. 300	p. 214
"Neither a martyr, a zealot, nor a prig . . ."	p. 303	p. 218
"Why does man need a moral code . . ."	p. 304	p. 219
" <i>Any code of values must hold life as . . .</i> "	p. 299	p. 212
"Just as every idea has a relationship . . ."	p. 308	p. 225
"If some emergency requires . . ."	p. 311	p. 229
"You can't separate the process of cognition from its . . ."	p. 313	p. 232
"A brain like a factory . . ."	p. 314	p. 232
"The vicious act of sacrifice . . ."	p. 316	p. 236
"The bad name which 'the good' now has . . ."	p. 323	p. 246
"A primary choice does not mean a 'groundless' choice."	p. 324	p. 248
"It is the moral liberation of the human race."	p. 325	p. 249
"Remaining alive is the goal of proper action."	p. 299	p. 213
"Suicide <i>is</i> sometimes justified."	p. 324	p. 247

<b>Lesson 12 Quotes</b>	<b>Cited Page</b>	<b>OPAR Page</b>
"The unreal is unreal and can give no value."	p. 338	p. 268
"The relationship between the virtue of independence . . ."	p. 328	p. 253
"Like every virtue, it involves both an intellectual and . . ."	p. 329	p. 255
"The challenge is not to struggle against immoral passions."	p. 334	p. 261
"Not that evil is more powerful than good . . ."	p. 336	p. 265
"A liar is not a man who always lies."	p. 337	p. 266
"Every choice redounds on one's ability."	p. 301	p. 215
"Socrates: 'Virtue <i>is</i> one.'"	p. 341	p. 272
"The trade-off viewpoint . . ."	p. 342	p. 272
" <i>Just as, in epistemology . . .</i> "	p. 342	p. 273
"'Jesus' question . . ."	p. 342	p. 273
"Absolutely. Somebody phones you up on the telephone..."	p. 344	p. 276
"Justice as allegiance to those who have sworn . . ."	p. 346	p. 278
"Justice in action consists in requiring . . ."	p. 349	p. 282
"What rewards and punishments do men deserve?"	p. 350	p. 285
"This is my own distinction, and I don't think it's mandatory . . ."	p. 352	p. 287
"Egalitarianism"	p. 355	p. 291
"A life of purpose . . ."	p. 360	p. 300
"Moral ambitiousness was Ayn Rand's own phrase to describe pride."	p. 364	p. 300
"Why any serious code of ethics upholds pride."	p. 368	p. 309
"The man of force, in attacking . . ."	p. 369	p. 311
"When reality is decreed at the point of a gun . . ."	p. 370	p. 312
"Turn an action into a reaction."	p. 370	p. 313
"Force is the antitheses of every virtue."	p. 372	p. 314

<b>Lesson 13 Quotes</b>	<b>Cited Page</b>	<b>OPAR Page</b>
"The terminology of self-preservation . . ."	p. 373	p. 317
"Value, like truth, is contextual."	p. 374	p. 318
"He may attempt to flee the country."	p. 373	p. 316
"Galt has turned into an idiot."	p. 370	p. 312
"The alternative is: be good without earthly purpose."	p. 380	p. 327
"Associating evil with value . . ."	p. 382	p. 330
"Scorn for principles . . ."	p. 385	p. 334
"Morality is practical because consciousness is . . ."	p. 386	p. 335
"This vice represents the destruction of rationality."	p. 368	p. 310
"Since man is an integrated being . . ."	p. 371	p. 313
"Happiness as the Normal Condition of Man . . ."	p. 386	p. 335
"The moral, the practical, the happy, cannot be sundered."	p. 387	p. 337
"Motivation by love or fear . . ."	p. 388	p. 338
"Achieving life is not the same as avoiding death."	p. 388	p. 339
"The Objectivist standard of morality . . ."	p. 304	p. 219
"All animal needs and pleasures . . ."	p. 292	p. 344
"'Platonic love' is a breach of integrity."	p. 393	p. 345
"Sex is <i>good</i> ."	p. 393	p. 346
"The chaser, the rapist . . ."	p. 393	p. 346
"He earned what he has."	p. 395	p. 348
"Schönberg"	p. 388	p. 338

<b>Lesson 14 Quotes</b>	<b>Cited Page</b>	<b>OPAR Page</b>
"Rights . . ."	p. 398	p. 351
"Reform an organized society."	p. 397	p. 351
"The right to life and its corollaries . . ."	p. 398	p. 352
"Since man is an integrated being . . ."	p. 399	p. 353
"Man is a certain kind of living organism."	p. 399	p. 353
"They all rest on life as the standard."	p. 399	p. 354
"Just as there are no rights of collections of individuals . . ."	p. 402	p. 357
"Rights can be violated only by physical force."	p. 403	p. 359
"Delegate the right of self-defense."	p. 406	p. 363
"Objective law . . ."	p. 407	p. 364
"Government is inherently negative."	p. 408	p. 366
"Anarchism . . ."	p. 413	p. 371–373
"A knowledge of famous people's secrets . . ."	p. 414	p. 374
"The evil of conservatives . . ."	p. 415	p. 376

<b>Lesson 15 Quotes</b>	<b>Cited Page</b>	<b>OPAR Page</b>
"Money is an objective measure and reward."	p. 432	p. 401
"Why does the system of virtue have to be the one that's the . . ."	p. 428	p. 395
"Tiananmen Square . . . physicians . . ."	p. 420	p. 384
"I mean specifically the issue of the difference between . . ."	p. 426–427	p. 393
"Should we endorse a vice . . ."	p. 427	p. 394
"This speech from Rearden in that context certainly makes clear . . ."	p. 428	p. 395
"When men violate the rights of one man."	p. 428	p. 395
"Production is profit and profit is production..."	p. 425	p. 391
"What happens to capitalists in monopolistic situations?"	p. 419	p. 383
"Economic value is objective."	p. 429	p. 396
"Fairness" of markets	p. 432	p. 400
"Money is like sex, art, and happiness."	p. 433	p. 402
"Now I took capitalism back to objectivity . . ."	p. 435	p. 406
"The subjectivist intellectual . . ."	p. 431	p. 400
"Unsubsidized (and untenured) professorate . . ."	p. 432	p. 401
"Why do we need a definition of monopoly?"	p. 436	p. 407
"Contradictions" with regard to capitalism	p. 438	p. 409
"Men who are immune to facts . . ."	p. 438	p. 410
"The battle for the world . . ."	p. 440	p. 412