

**PHILOSOPHICAL ANTHROPOLOGY:
AN INTRODUCTORY STUDY ON THE NATURE OF THE HUMAN PERSON**

* * *

Class 3: Basic Philosophical Principles Continued

I. Potency and Act

A. Potency

1. The potency of a thing is the capacity or ability of a thing to be actualized.
2. Thus, to be “in potency” is to be “in a state of receptivity or changeableness or perfectibility.” (Wuellner)

B. Act

1. Act “1. a capacity in a subject whereby it is real, really *such a being*, or really *this being*; an intrinsic principle determining a potency, (that is, conferring) a definite perfection on a subject...2. a perfection, realization or fulfillment of a potency; the state of being perfect; what is fully real, complete, finished, realized...3. the perfection resulting from an action; the thing done, changed, or made...4. an activity or operation, whether doing or making” (Wuellner)

C. The Principles of Stability and Change

Principle of Stability	Principle of Change and Corruption
Form <i>is to</i>	Matter <i>as</i>
Act <i>is to</i>	Potency

II. First and Second Act

- A. The form is the first act of a thing.
- B. Any other act is a second act of the thing

III. Substance and Accidents

- A. There are two fundamental ways a thing can exist; there are two ways to have being. A thing either:
 1. Exists in itself – viz., exists substantially
 2. Exists in another – viz., exists accidentally
- B. Substance: what a thing is
 1. That which is able to exist in and for itself and not in another
 2. The form of a substance is a substantial form; it is what gives a thing its unity
- C. Accident
 1. That which is able to exist only in another; the kind of being that is able to exist only in another
 2. Requires a substance in which to inhere; they cannot exist in/on their own
 3. The form of an accident is an accidental form
- D. Ten Categories: the first is substance; the nine remaining are all accidents
 1. Substance
 2. Quantity
 3. Quality
 4. Relation
 5. Action
 6. Passion (to undergo an action)
 7. Place (where)
 8. Time (when)
 9. Posture (internal position/attitude)
 10. State (habitus; status)