

Vocabulary for the Hans Jonas reading, Chapter 1 from *The Imperative of Responsibility: In Search of an Ethics for the Technological Age*.

adduce (v). To bring forward in argument or as evidence. To cite as pertinent or conclusive. “To adduce reasons in support of a constitutional amendment.”

agency (n). A means of exerting control, power or influence, as in “nominated by the agency of friends.”
Moral agency is the capacity for making moral judgments and taking actions that comport with morality. Most philosophers suggest that only rational beings (generally taken to mean competent humans) are capable of being moral agents

approbation. Approval. Official recognition or approval.

chiliasm. The doctrine of Christ’s expected return to reign on earth for 1000 years; millennialism.

concomitant. One that occurs or exists concurrently with another. Existing or occurring with something else, often in a lesser way; accompanying; concurrent.

deinotes. Cleverness; the ability to carry out actions so as to achieve a goal. One of the intellectual virtues described by Aristotle.

eschatology. (n, Christian theology). Doctrines concerning last, or final, matters, esp. the end of the world.

homo faber. Homo faber (Latin for “Man the Smith” or “Man the Maker”); in reference to the biological name for man; “Homo sapiens” meaning “man the wise”) is a concept articulated by Hannah Arendt and Max Frisch. It refers to humans as controlling the environment through tools.

importunate. Troublesomely urgent or persistent in requesting.

memento mori. A Latin phrase that may be freely translated as “Remember that you are mortal,” or “Remember you will die.”

mendacity. Untruthfulness. Falsehood or lying.

metaphysics. The branch of philosophy concerned with explaining the nature of reality, being, and the world. It addresses questions such as: What is the nature of reality? What is humankind’s place in the universe? Does the world exist outside the mind?

nativity. Birthrate. The number number of live births in a year in some area per 1000 people living there (about 14 in the USA).

nihilism. A philosophical position that argues that the world, especially past and current human existence, is without objective meaning, purpose, comprehensible truth, or essential value.

novum. New. Something new. (Latin).

obverse. The front or main surface or side, esp. of a coin.

praxis. Practice.

prescience. (n) Knowledge of things before they exist or happen; foreknowledge; foresight.

qua. Latin: considered as, in the capacity of being. In the reading, “life *qua* human,” life as a human being.

salutary (adj). Wholesome. Conducive to some beneficial purpose. Healthful.

techne. Techne, as distinguished from *episteme* (*knowledge* or *science*) is often translated as *craft* or *art*. It is the rational method involved in producing an object or accomplishing objective. Techne resembles episteme in the implication of knowledge of principles, although techne differs in that its intent is making or doing, not simply “disinterested understanding.”