Examples of "Approximational" philosophical trichotomies
(Hence, these {Western} authors can be viewed as "Approximationist" Philosophers)

3-Title	3 Components	Author
3 Causal principles (based on Aristotle): **3** Acts of intellect (based on Aristotle): **3** Transcendentals of being: **3** Requisites for the beautiful: **3** Potencies for intellect (based on Aristotle):	1. Agent. - Patient. - Act. 2. Conception. - Judgment. - Reasoning. 3. Unity. - Truth. - Goodness. 4. Wholeness or perfection. - Harmony or due proportion. - Radiance. 5. Imagination. - Cogitative power (or, on animals, instinct). - Memory (and, on humans, reminiscence).	**Thomas Aquinas** (Italian Dominican theologian, the foremost medieval Scholastic.)
3 Classical ideals: (Book: The Human Condition- Vita Activa)	Labor (Citizenship) - Work - Action (Political)	**Hannah Arendt** (German-born American political scientist and philosopher known for her critical writing on Jewish affairs and her study of totalitarianism.)
3 Main modes of persuasion: **3** Kinds of soul:	1. Ethos. - Pathos. - Logos. 2. Threptike (nutritive, vegetative). Aisthetike (sensitive, animal). Noetike (rational, human).	**Aristotle** (Ancient Greek philosopher and scientist, one of the greatest intellectual figures of Western history.)
3 Laws: **3** Features (not powers) of the soul:	1. Divine Law. - Natural Law. - Temporal, Positive, or Human Law. 2. Intellect. - Will. - Memory.	**(Hippo) Saint Augustine** (Roman-Algerian Christian Theologian . One of the Latin Fathers of the Church, one of the Doctors of the Church, and perhaps the most significant Christian thinker after St. Paul.)
3 Tables: **3** Faculties of the Mind: **3** Branches of knowledge: (inspired the figurative system of human knowledge by Diderot and d'Alembert.)	1. Presence. - Absence. - Degree. 2. Memory. - Reason. - Imagination. 3. History. - Philosophy. - Poetry.	**Sir Francis Bacon** (Lord chancellor of England (1618–21). A lawyer, statesman, philosopher, and master of the English tongue.)
3 Aspects of Personality: (Transactional analysis)	Parent - Adult - Child	**Eric Berne** (Humanistic Psychology- Gestaltism) [Canadian-born psychiatrist who created the theory of transactional analysis.]
3 Ways of transferring:	Metaphrase. - Paraphrase. - Imitation.	**John Dryden** (English poet, dramatist, and literary critic who so dominated the literary scene of his day that it came to be known as the Age of Dryden.)
3 Realms of sense:	The external, public, physical. The internal, private, mental. The Platonic, ideal but objective (to which sentences refer).	**Gottlob Frege** (German mathematician and logician, who founded modern mathematical logic.)
3 Part structural model:	Id - (Pleasure principle) Ego - (Reality principle) Superego - (Social norms principle)	**Sigmund Freud** (Austrian neurologist, founder of psychoanalysis. Freud's article on psychoanalysis appeared in the 13th edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica.)
3 Spirits:	Subjective Spirit. - Objective Spirit. - Absolute Spirit.	**Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel** (German philosopher who developed a dialectical scheme that emphasized the progress of history and of ideas from thesis to antithesis and thence to a synthesis.)

Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel held that a thing's or idea's internal contradiction → leads on a dialectical process → to a new synthesis that makes better sense of the contradiction.
The process is sometimes described as **Thesis, Antithesis, Synthesis**.
It is instanced across a pattern of trichotomies:

1. Being - Nothingness - Becoming
2. Immediate - Mediate - Concrete
3. Abstract - Negative - Concrete

Such trichotomies are not just three-way classificatory divisions; they involve trios of elements functionally interrelated on a process. They are often called triads (but 'triad' does not have that as a fixed sense on philosophy generally).

3-Title	3 Components	Author
3 Fields:	Physics. - Moral Philosophy. - Civil Philosophy.	**Thomas Hobbes** (English philosopher, scientist, and historian, best known for his political philosophy, especially as articulated in his masterpiece Leviathan (1651).)
3 Reductions:	Phenomenological. - Eidetic. - Religious.	**Edmund Husserl** (German philosopher, the founder of Phenomenology, a method for the description and analysis of consciousness through which philosophy attempts to gain the character of a strict science.)
3 Distinct powers:	(Follows Augustine; but may erroneously identify *Intellect. Will. Memory.* as powers.)	**Saint John of the Cross** (Spanish Christian mystic)
3 Aesthetic stages:	Arrest (by wholeness). - Fascination (by harmony). - Enchantment (by radiance).	**James Joyce** (Irish novelist noted for his experimental use of language and exploration of new literary methods in such large works of fiction as Ulysses (1922) and Finnegans Wake (1939).)
3 Judgments of modality: **3** Categories of modality: **3** Higher faculties of cognition: **3** Judgments of quantity: **3** Categories of quantity: **3** Judgments of quality: **3** Categories of quality: **3** Judgments of relation: **3** Categories of relation: **3** Faculties of soul:	1. Problematical. - Assertoric. - Apodictic. 2. Possibility. - Existence. - Necessity. 3. Understanding. - Judgment. - Reason. 4. Universal. - Particular. - Singular 5. Unity. - Plurality. - Totality 6. Affirmative. - Negative. - infinite 7. Reality. - Negation. - Limitation. 8. Categorical. - Hypothetical. - Disjunctive. 9. inherence and subsistence. - Causality and dependence. - Community. [(Substance and accident.); (Cause and effect.); (Reciprocity.)] 10. Faculties of knowledge. - Feeling of pleasure or displeasure. - Faculty of desire (which Kant regarded also as the will).	**Immanuel Kant** (German philosopher whose comprehensive and systematic work in the theory of knowledge, ethics, and aesthetics greatly influenced all subsequent philosophy, especially the various schools of Kantianism and Idealism.)

(FOUR)
Immanuel Kant expounded a table of judgments involving four three-way alternatives, on regard to (1) Quantity, (2) Quality, (3) Relation, (4) Modality, and, based thereupon, a table of four categories, named by the terms just listed, and each with three subcategories.

(THREE)
Kant also adapted the Thomistic acts of intellect on his trichotomy of higher —(a) understanding, (b) judgment, (c) reason— which he correlated with his adaptation on the soul's capacities— (a) cognitive faculties, (b) feeling of pleasure or displeasure, and (c) faculty of desire. (Kant I., (1800), Logic (Logik), tr. J. Richardson London, 1819, p.209.

(TWO)
In preparation he states "A division onto two members goes under the appellation of dichotomy; but it, when consisting of more than two, takes the name of polytomy".)
Kant notes that all "polytomy are empirical" and "cannot be taught on logic".

H.O.B. note: I want to point out that the above commentary references a three-part "2–3–4" ensemble. However, if you are not aware of the existence of a reoccurring ensemble, it is easily overlooked.

3-Title	3 Components	Author
3 Stages (**3** Spheres of existence): [Not developmental stages on a biological or psychological sense.]	Aesthetic. - Ethical. - Religious.	**Søren Kierkegaard** (Danish philosopher, theologian, and cultural critic who was a major influence on existentialism and Protestant theology in the 20th century.)
3 Types of life: (Each one up the scale requires the previous one.)	Chemical-bonder (i.e. plants). Space-bonder (i.e. mammals). Time-bonder (i.e. humans).	**Alfred Korzybski** (Polish-born American scientist and philosopher. Originator of general semantics: a system of linguistic philosophy that attempts to increase humanity's capacity to transmit ideas from generation to generation.)
3 Orders:	Real - Symbolic - Imaginary	**Jacques Lacan** (French psychoanalyst- original interpreter of Sigmund Freud's work.)
3 Universals	Ante rem (Idea on God's mind). In re (potential or actual on things). Post rem (mentally abstracted).	**Saint Albertus Magnus** (Dominican bishop and German philosopher best known as a teacher of St. Thomas Aquinas and as a proponent of Aristotelianism at the University of Paris.)
3-Part (Tripartite) nature of humanity: [Paul uses alternative concepts on other passages:]	Soma (body). - Psyche (soul). - Pneuma (spirit). (kardia [heart]; eso kai exo anthropos [inner and outer human being]; nous [mind]; suneidesis [conscience]; sarx [flesh])	**Saint Paul** (I Thes. 5:23)
3 Categories: **3** Universes of experience: **3** Orders of philosophy: **3** Normatives: **3** Semiotic elements: **3** Grades of conceptual clearness: **3** Active principles on the cosmos:	1. Quality of feeling. - Reaction, resistance. - Representation, mediation. 2. Ideas. - Brute fact. - Habit (habit-taking). 3. Phenomenology. - Normative sciences. - Metaphysics. 4. The good (esthetic). - The right (ethical). - The true (logical). 5. Sign (representamen). - Object. - Interpretant. 6. By familiarity. - Of definition's parts. - Of conceivable practical implications. 7. Spontaneity, absolute chance. - Mechanical necessity. - Creative love.	**Charles Sanders Peirce** (American scientist, logician, and philosopher)

Charles Sanders Peirce built his philosophy on trichotomies and triadic relations and processes, and framed the "Reduction Thesis" that every predicate is essentially either monadic (quality), dyadic (relation of reaction or resistance), or triadic (representational relation), and never genuinely and irreducibly tetradic or larger.

3-Title	3 Components	Author
3 Parts of man: **3** Transcendentals: **3**-Part (Tripartite) soul:	1. Nous (mind, intellect). - Psyche (soul). - Soma (body). 2. Truth (logic, verum). - Goodness (ethics, bonum). - Beauty (aesthetics, pulchrum). 3. Logistikon (logical, rational). - (" Thumos") Thymoeides (spirited, various animal qualities). - Epithymetikon (appetitive, volitive, libidonous, desiring).	**Plato** (ancient Greek philosopher, student of Socrates (c. 470–399 BCE), teacher of Aristotle (384–322 BCE), and founder of the Academy, best known as the author of philosophical works of unparalleled influence.)
3 Principles:	The One. - The intellect. - The Soul.	**Plotinus** (ancient philosopher, the centre of an influential circle of intellectuals and men of letters in **3**-rd century Rome, who is regarded by modern scholars as the founder of the Neoplatonic school of philosophy.)
3 Fields: **3** Categories:	1. Physical. - Vital. - Human. 2. Quantity. - Order. - Meaning.	**Maurice Merleau-Ponty** (French philosopher and man of letters, the leading exponent of Phenomenology in France.)
3 Worlds:	Physical things and processes. Subjective human experience. Culture and objective knowledge.	**Karl Popper** (Austrian-born British philosopher of natural and social science who subscribed to antideterminist metaphysics, believing that knowledge evolves from experience of the mind.)
3 Elements of man	Kardia (heart). - (nephesh) Psyche (soul). - Dynamis (power).	**Shema** (Jewish Prayer)
3-Fold aspects:	Body, - Soul - Spirit.; Imagination - inspiration - intuition.	**Rudolf Steiner** (Austrian-born spiritualist, lecturer, and founder of anthroposophy, a movement based on the notion that there is a spiritual world comprehensible to pure thought but accessible only to the highest faculties of mental knowledge.)
3 Powers of mind:	Feeling. - Understanding. - Will.	**Johannes Nikolaus Tetens** (German psychologist, mathematician, economist, educator, and empiricist philosopher who strongly influenced the work of Immanuel Kant.)
3 World views:	Life as machine (Western). Life as organism (Chinese). Life as drama (Indian).	**Alan Watts** (English Writer)
3 Special metaphysics:	Rational psychology. - Rational cosmology. - Rational theology.	**Christian Wolff** (Philosopher, mathematician, and scientist who worked in many subjects but who is best known as the German spokesman of the Enlightenment.)
3 Aesthetic elements:	Shape. - Rhythm. - Style.	**Louis Zukofsky** (American poet, the founder of Objectivist poetry and author of the massive poem "A ")