

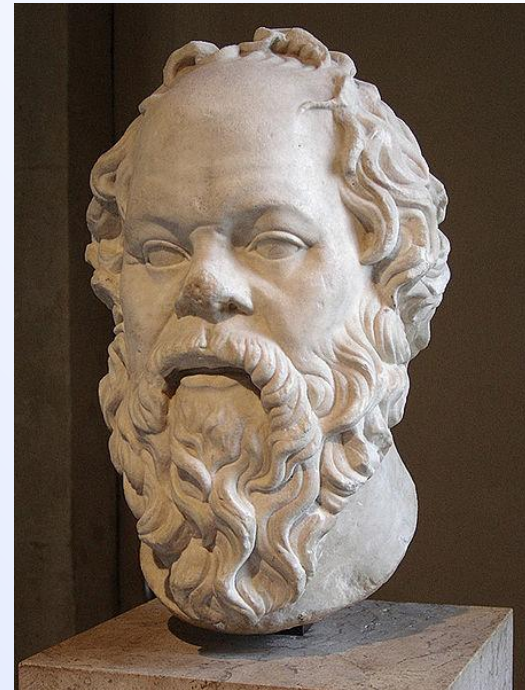
Greek Philosophy

Part II

III. SOCRATES, PLATO and ARISTOTLE

A. Socrates (469 BC–399 BC)

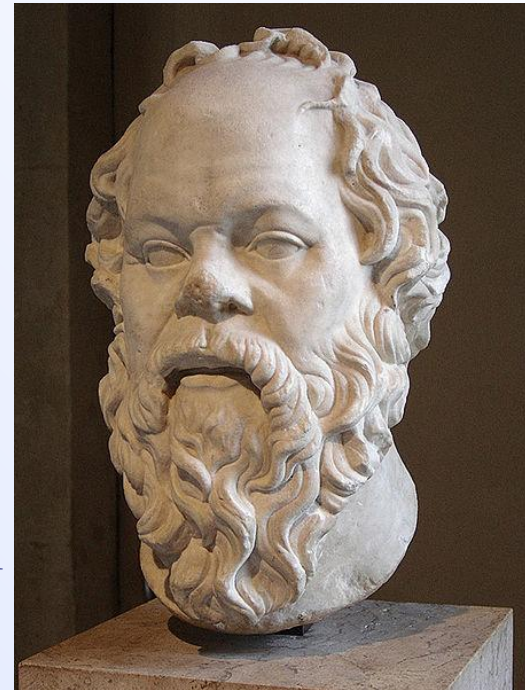
- Socrates (469 BC–399 BC)
 - Credited as one of the founders of Western philosophy.
 - Known only through the classical accounts of his students.
 - Plato's dialogues are the most comprehensive accounts of Socrates to survive from antiquity.
 - Socrates who also lends his name to the concepts of Socratic irony and the Socratic method.



III. SOCRATES, PLATO and ARISTOTLE

A. Socrates

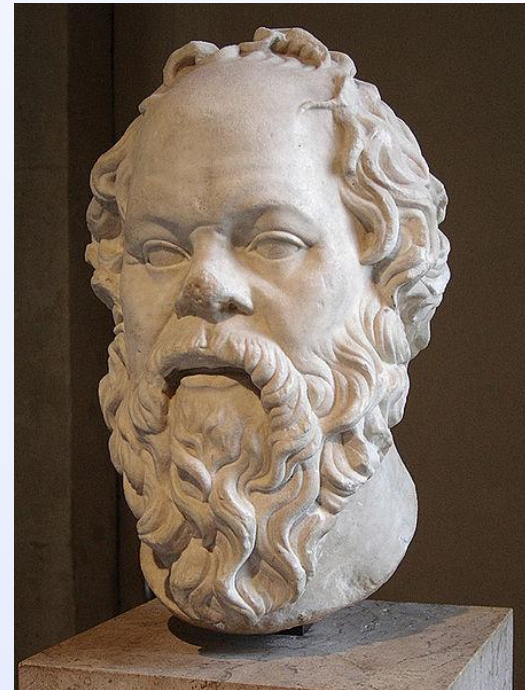
- Socrates
 - He agreed with sophists.
 - Personal experience is important, but denied that no truth exists beyond personal opinion.
 - Method of inductive definition
 - Examine instances of a concept
 - Ask the question – what is it that all instances have in common?
 - Find the essence of the instances of the concept.
 - Seek to find general concepts by examining isolated instances.



III. SOCRATES, PLATO and ARISTOTLE

A. Socrates

- Socrates
 - The essence was a universally accepted definition of a concept.
 - Understanding essences constituted knowledge and goal of life was to gain knowledge.
 - Socrates was sentenced to death at the age of 70 years for corrupting the youth of Athens



III. SOCRATES, PLATO and ARISTOTLE

B. Plato

- Plato (428 – 348 BCE)
 - He was a classical Greek philosopher and founder of the Academy in Athens, the first institution of higher learning in the western world.
 - Along with his mentor, Socrates, and his student, Aristotle, Plato helped to lay the foundations of Western philosophy.
 - Plato was originally a student of Socrates, and was as influenced by his thinking and unjust death.



III. SOCRATES, PLATO and ARISTOTLE

B. Plato

- Theory of forms
 - Everything in the empirical world is an inferior manifestation of the pure form, which exists in the abstract.
 - Experience through our senses comes from interaction of the pure form and matter of the world
 - Result is an experience less than perfect.
 - True knowledge can be attained only through reason; rational thought regarding the forms.



III. SOCRATES, PLATO and ARISTOTLE

B. Plato

- The analogy of the divided line
 - Description of Plato's view of acquisition of true knowledge.
 - The analogy divides the world and our states of mind into points along a divided line.
 - An attempt to gain knowledge through sensory experience is doomed to ignorance or opinion.
 - Imagining is lowest form of understanding
 - Direct experience with objects is slightly better, but still just beliefs or opinions.



III. SOCRATES, PLATO and ARISTOTLE

B. Plato

- The analogy of the divided line
 - Contemplation of mathematical relationships is better than imagination and direct experience.
 - Highest form of thinking involves embracing the forms.
 - True knowledge and intelligence comes only from understanding the abstract forms.
- The allegory of the cave
 - Demonstrates how difficult it is to deliver humans from ignorance



III. SOCRATES, PLATO and ARISTOTLE

B. Plato

- The reminiscence theory of knowledge
 - How do we know the forms if we cannot know them through sensory experiences?
 - Prior to coming into the body, the soul dwelt in pure, complete knowledge.
 - Knowledge is innate and attained only through introspection
 - Thus, all true knowledge comes only from remembering the experiences the soul had prior to entering the body.



III. SOCRATES, PLATO and ARISTOTLE

B. Plato

- The reminiscence theory of knowledge
 - The reminiscence theory of knowledge made Plato a rationalist who stressed mental operations to gain knowledge already in the soul.



III. SOCRATES, PLATO and ARISTOTLE

B. Plato

- The nature of the soul
 - Soul comprised of three parts (tripartite)
 - Rational component
 - immortal, existed with the forms.
 - Courageous (emotional or spirited) component
 - mortal emotions such as fear, rage, and love
 - Appetite component
 - mortal needs such as hunger, thirst, and sexual behavior that must be satisfied



III. SOCRATES, PLATO and ARISTOTLE

B. Plato

- The nature of the soul
 - To obtain knowledge, one must suppress bodily needs and concentrate on rational pursuits.
 - Job of rational component is to postpone and inhibit immediate gratification when it is in the best long-term benefit of the person.



III. SOCRATES, PLATO and ARISTOTLE

B. Plato

- *The Republic*
 - Plato described a utopian society with three types of people performing specific functions:
 - appetitive individuals – workers and slaves.
 - courageous individuals – soldiers.
 - rational individuals – philosopher-kings.



III. SOCRATES, PLATO and ARISTOTLE

B. Plato

- Plato felt that all was predetermined.
 - A complete nativist, people are destined to be a slave, soldier, or philosopher-king.
- While asleep, the baser appetites in people are fulfilled no matter how rational they are while awake
 - Plato is referring to dreams although he does not mention them specifically.



III. SOCRATES, PLATO and ARISTOTLE

B. Plato

- Plato's legacy
 - Because of his disdain for empirical observation and sensory experience as means of gaining knowledge, he actually inhibited progress in science.
 - Dualism in humans



III. SOCRATES, PLATO and ARISTOTLE

C. Aristotle

- Aristotle (384 BC – 322 BC)
 - A student of Plato and teacher of Alexander the Great.
 - He was the first to create a comprehensive system of Western philosophy, encompassing morality and aesthetics, logic and science, politics and metaphysics.
 - Aristotle wrote many elegant treatises and dialogues, but only about one-third of the original works have survived.



III. SOCRATES, PLATO and ARISTOTLE

C. Aristotle

- Aristotle's Legacy
 - Physical sciences
 - profoundly shaped medieval scholarship, and its influence extended well into the Renaissance, although ultimately replaced by Newtonian Physics.
 - Biological sciences,
 - Some observations were confirmed to be accurate only in the 19 C.
 - Logic
 - His work was incorporated into modern formal logic.



III. SOCRATES, PLATO and ARISTOTLE

C. Aristotle

- Aristotle's Legacy
 - Metaphysics
 - He had a profound influence on philosophical and theological thinking in the Islamic and Jewish traditions in the Middle Ages.
 - It continues to influence Christian theology, especially Eastern Orthodox theology, and the scholastic tradition of the Roman Catholic Church.
 - All aspects of Aristotle's views continue to be the object of active academic study today.



III. SOCRATES, PLATO and ARISTOTLE

C. Aristotle

- Aristotle and Plato contrasted.
 - Plato:
 - Essences (truths) in the forms that exist independent of nature, known only by using introspection (rationalism)
 - Aristotle
 - Essences could be known only by studying nature through individual observation of phenomena (empiricism).
 - Aristotle a rationalist and empiricist.
 - Mind employed to gain knowledge (rationalist), object of the rational thought was information from sensory experience (empiricism).



III. SOCRATES, PLATO and ARISTOTLE

C. Aristotle

- Aristotle's Lyceum
 - Located just outside the walls of ancient Athens
 - Before starting the Lyceum, Aristotle had studied for 19 years (366-347 BC) at Plato's Academy.
 - Head of his school until 323 BC
 - Athenians turned against the Alexandrian Empire upon Alexander the Great's death (his student 343- 335 BCE)
 - He left Athens fearing for his life, saying famously that "Athens must not be allowed to sin twice against philosophy."
 - The school was sacked by Romans general
 - The location of the complex was lost for centuries, until it was rediscovered in 1996, during excavations which revealed foundations and few other remains.

III. SOCRATES, PLATO and ARISTOTLE

C. Aristotle

- Aristotle's four causes
 - Aristotle's four causes, to understand object or phenomenon, one must know causes.
 - Material cause
 - matter of which it is made
 - Formal cause
 - form or pattern of the object – what is it?
 - Efficient cause
 - force that transforms the matter – who made it?
 - Final cause
 - purpose – why it exists.



III. SOCRATES, PLATO and ARISTOTLE

C. Aristotle

- Aristotle's causation, teleology, and entelechy
 - Everything has a cause and purpose
 - Teleology, meaning that everything has a function (entelechy) built into it.
 - Entelechy keeps an object moving and developing in its prescribed direction to full potential
 - *Scala naturae* is the idea that nature is arranged in a hierarchy ranging from neutral matter to the unmoved mover, which is the cause of everything in nature



III. SOCRATES, PLATO and ARISTOTLE

C. Aristotle

- Hierarchy of souls: What gives life:
 - Vegetative (nutritive) soul
 - Provides growth, assimilation of food, and reproduction
 - Possessed by plants
 - Sensitive soul
 - Functions of vegetative soul plus the ability to sense and respond to the environment, experience pleasure and pain, and use memory.
 - Possessed by animals.



III. SOCRATES, PLATO and ARISTOTLE

C. Aristotle

- Hierarchy of souls:
 - Rational soul
 - Vegetative and sensitive souls plus ability for thinking and rational thought.
 - Possessed by humans.
- Sensation
 - From the five senses
 - Perception was explained by motion of objects that stimulate a particular sensory system.
 - We can trust our senses to yield an accurate representation of the real world environment



III. SOCRATES, PLATO and ARISTOTLE

C. Aristotle

- Common sense, passive and active reason.
 - Sensory information is only first step in gaining knowledge – necessary but not sufficient element in obtaining knowledge.
 - Information from multiple sensory systems must be combined for effective interactions with the environment.
 - Common sense
 - Coordinates and synthesizes information from all of the senses for more meaningful and effective experience.



III. SOCRATES, PLATO and ARISTOTLE

C. Aristotle

- Common sense, passive and active reason.
 - Passive reason
 - Uses synthesized experience to function in everyday life
 - Active reason
 - Uses synthesized experience to abstract principles and essences
 - Highest form of thinking
 - Active reason provides humans with their entelechy
 - Purpose is to engage in active reason
 - Source of greatest pleasure.



III. SOCRATES, PLATO and ARISTOTLE

C. Aristotle

- Unmoved Mover
 - Gave everything in nature its purpose (entelechy)
 - Caused everything in nature, but was not caused by anything itself
 - It set nature in motion and little else
 - It was a logical necessity, not a god



III. SOCRATES, PLATO and ARISTOTLE

C. Aristotle

- Memory and recall
 - Remembering
 - Spontaneous recollection of a previous experience
 - Recall
 - An actual mental search for a previous experience
- Practice of recall affected by laws of association
 - Law of contiguity
 - Associate things that occurred close in time and/or in same situations



III. SOCRATES, PLATO and ARISTOTLE

C. Aristotle

- Law of similarity
 - Similar things are associated
- Law of contrast
 - Opposite things are associated
- Law of frequency
 - More often events occur together – stronger the association
- Associationism
 - Belief that associations can be used to explain origins of ideas, memory, or how complex ideas are formed from simple ones
 - Laws of association are basis for most theories of learning and association.



III. SOCRATES, PLATO and ARISTOTLE

C. Aristotle

- Imagination and dreaming
 - Imagination is the lingering effects of sensory experience.
 - Dreams are images from past experiences which are stimulated by events inside and outside the body
- Motivation and happiness
 - Happiness is doing what is natural
 - Fulfills one's purpose
 - Purpose for humans is to think rationally
 - Humans are motivated by appetites but can



III. SOCRATES, PLATO and ARISTOTLE

C. Aristotle

- Motivation and happiness
 - Conflicts arise between immediate satisfaction and biological drives and more remote rational goals.
 - Like most Greeks, Aristotle held self-control and moderation as a high ideal.
 - The best life lived according to **golden mean** (between excess and deficiency).
 - Emotions and selective perception
 - Emotions function to amplify any existing tendency (behavior).



III. SOCRATES, PLATO and ARISTOTLE

D. Greek Philosophy

- Greek Philosophical Tradition
 - The Greek cosmologists broke loose from the accepted traditions and speculated; they also engaged in critical discussion.
 - After Aristotle's death, philosophers either relied on teachings of past authorities, particularly Aristotle, or turned attention from descriptions of the universe to models of human conduct.
 - The critical, questioning tradition of the Greeks was not present until revived in the Renaissance.

III. SOCRATES, PLATO and ARISTOTLE

D. Greek Philosophy

