

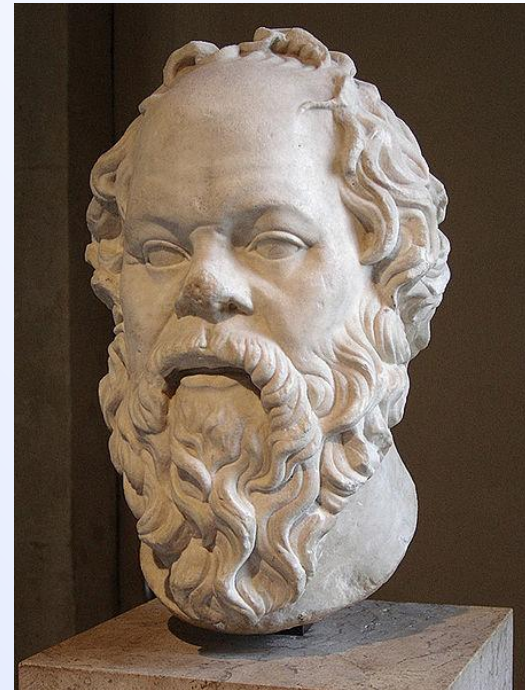
# **Greek Philosophy**

## **Part II**

# III. SOCRATES, PLATO and ARISTOTLE

## A. Socrates (469 BC–399 BC)

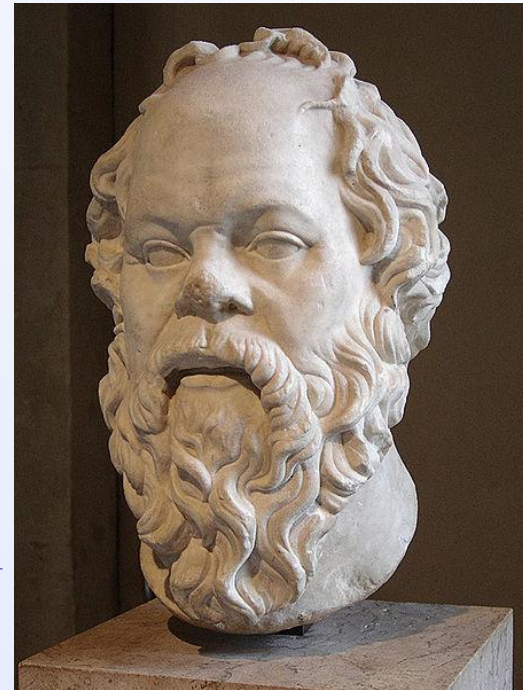
- Socrates (469 BC–399 BC)
  - Credited as one of the founders of Western philosophy.
  - Known only through the classical accounts of his students.
    - Plato's dialogues are the most comprehensive accounts of Socrates to survive from antiquity.
  - Socrates who also lends his name to the concepts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



# III. SOCRATES, PLATO and ARISTOTLE

## A. Socrates

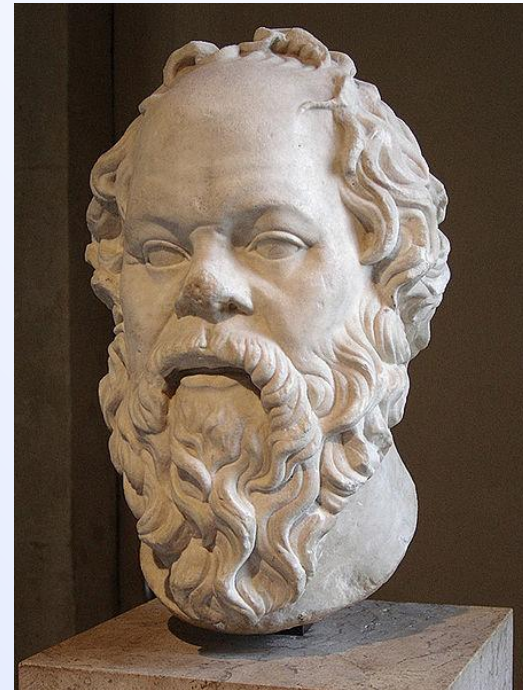
- Socrates
  - He agreed with sophists.
    - Personal experience is important, but denied that no truth exists beyond personal opinion.
  - Method of inductive definition
    - Examine instances of a concept
    - Ask the question – what is it that all instances have in common?
    - Find the essence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

