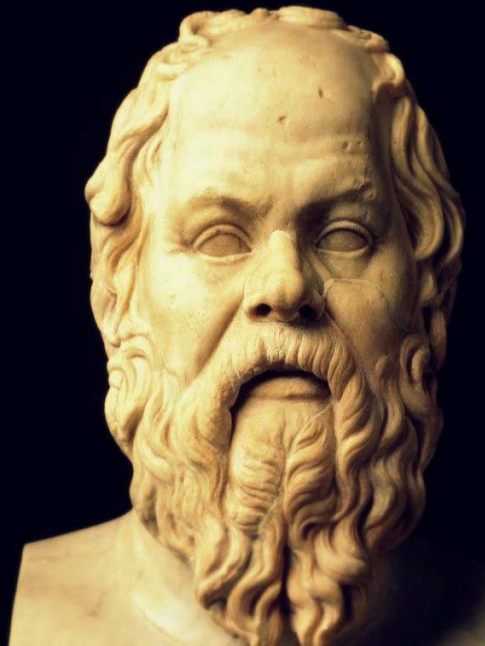


T15: Hellenic Greece

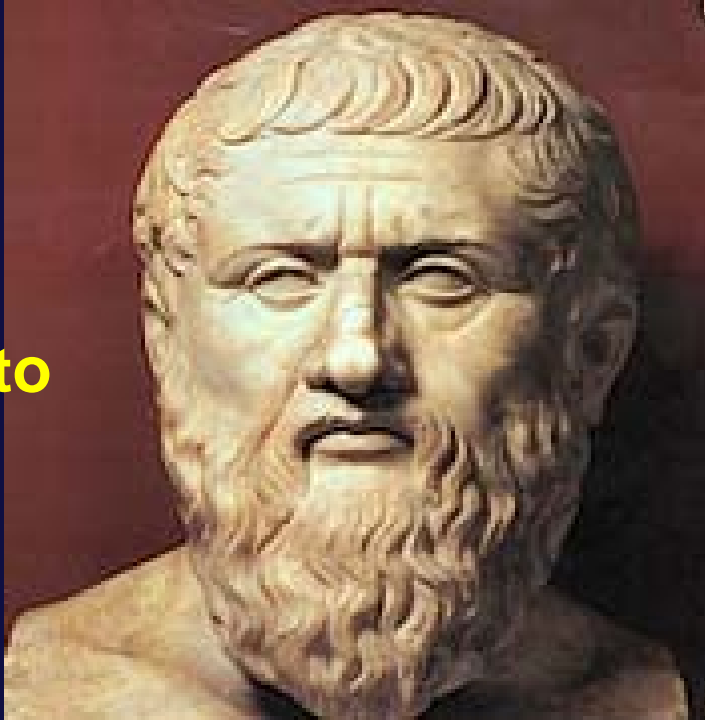
Greek Philosophy

- *Philosophia* (love of wisdom) seeking purpose of human life – their place in society – based on secular rather than religious thinking
- Search for an ideal state – free from corruption and political chaos - new ideas about nature, politics, human relations and values
- Three great philosophers – **Socrates, Plato and Aristotle**

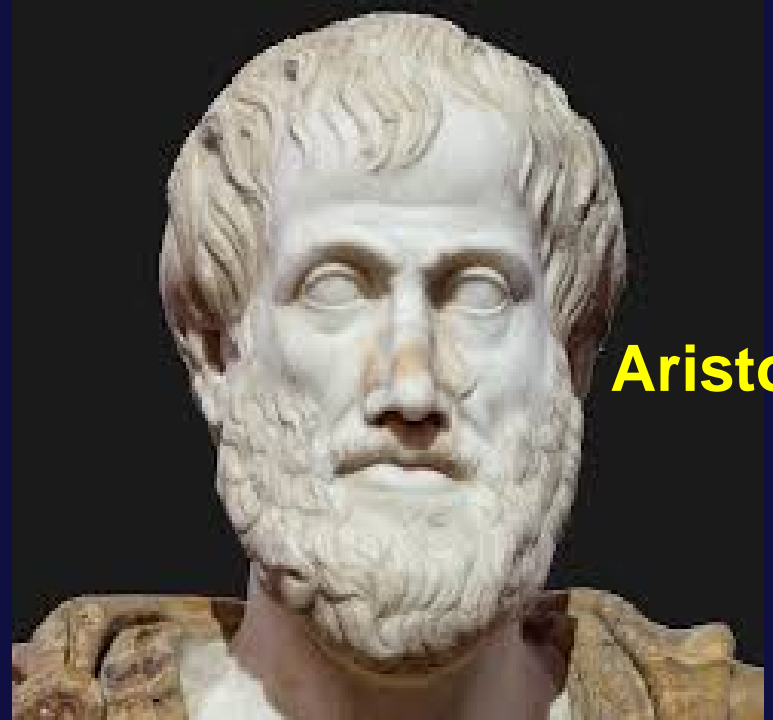
Socrates



Plato



Aristotle



Socrates (469-399 BCE)

- Focused on ethics and morality - no one would knowingly do a bad thing – knowledge resulted in good behavior – **idealist** philosopher .
- Honor and integrity more important than wealth and power
- Dialectic method of inquiry, known as the **Socratic method** - a problem broken down into a series of questions to find the desired solution.
- Claimed that he only knew that he knew nothing
- Condemned to drink poisonous ***Hemlock*** for ‘corrupting the minds of the Athenian youth’

The Death of Socrates

by Jacques-Louis David (1787)



Plato (428- 348 BCE)

- **Idealist** philosopher
- **Republic** - most famous work
- Everything that can be observed is only a distorted copy of the 'real thing' - true knowledge can not be acquired through observation of the material world but through dialectic and intellectual exploration of the world of "ideas"
- A **philosopher-king** should rule society
- Founded the **Academy**, where he taught illustrious students like **Aristotle**

Aristotle (384 -322 BCE)

- Understanding something possible only after examining all relevant facts – knowledge based on **evidence** – Materialism
- ‘**The Politics**’ – codes of moral conduct for citizens to improve the management of city states
- Founded the *Lyceum*
- Tutored **Alexander**, then Prince of Macedonia

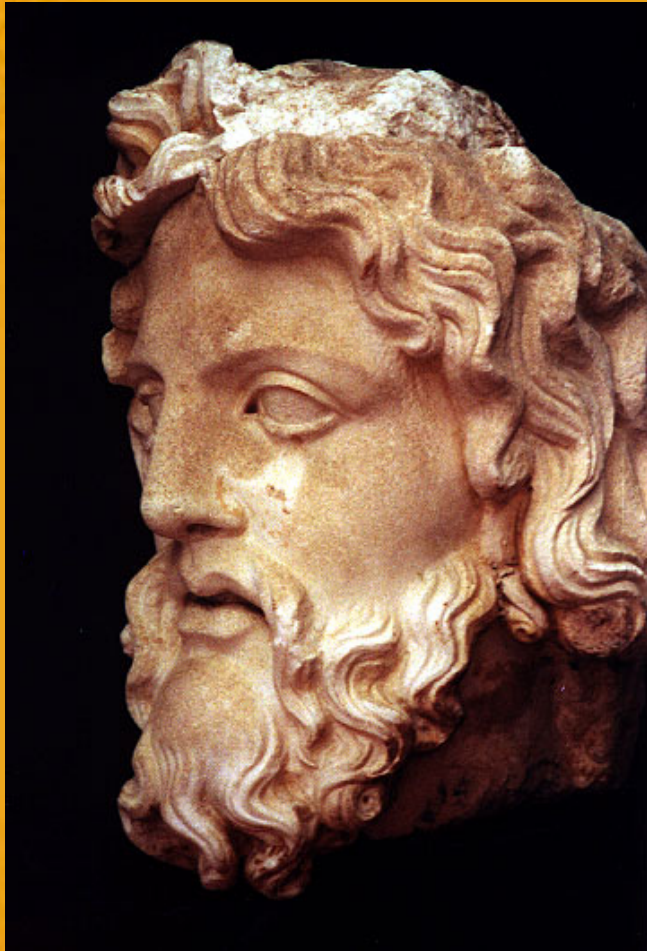
Other achievements

In addition to philosophy, Hellenic Greece made immense contributions to different branches of knowledge including mathematics, architecture, sculpture, history, natural sciences, poetry, drama

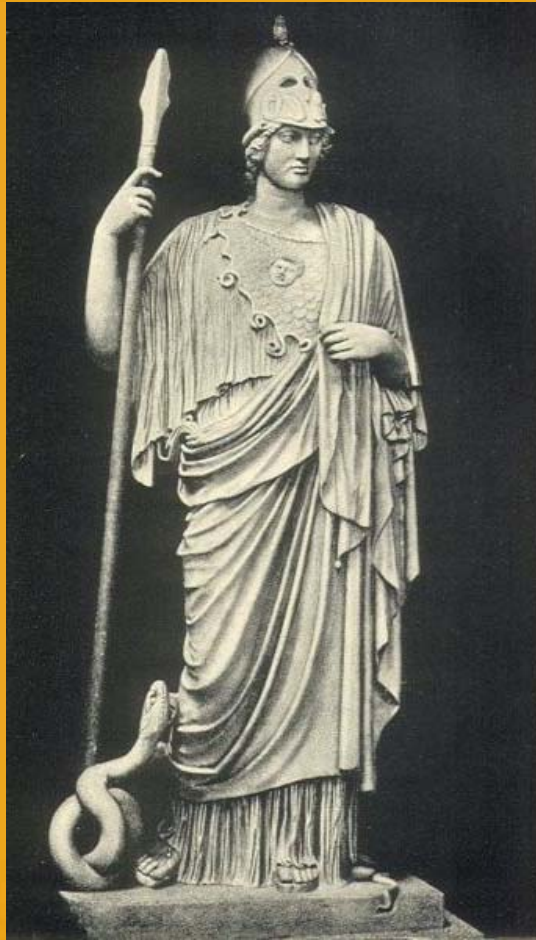
Religion

- **Polytheistic and Anthropomorphic**
- Main deities: **Zeus** : god of sky and the leader of gods - **Apollo**: God of sun – **Athena**: goddess of war and wisdom – **Aphrodite**: goddess of love and beauty
- Little concern for **after life**
- Faith in **Oracle**
- Supreme emphasis on **man**

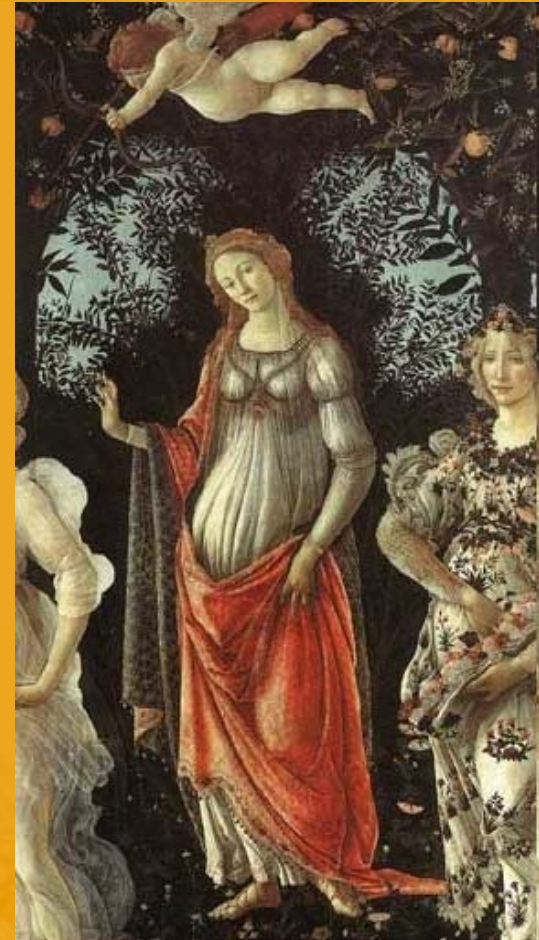
Greek deities



Zeus



Athena



Aphrodite

Acropolis, Athens



Parthenon, Athens



Agora: space for open assembly and market



Study Questions

- What types of philosophy emerged in ancient Athens?
- What kind of philosophy did Socrates preach?
- What was the philosophical outlook of Plato?
- How did Aristotle contribute to ancient Greek philosophy?
- Examine ancient Greek religion.
- How was oracle practiced in ancient Greece?

Thank You