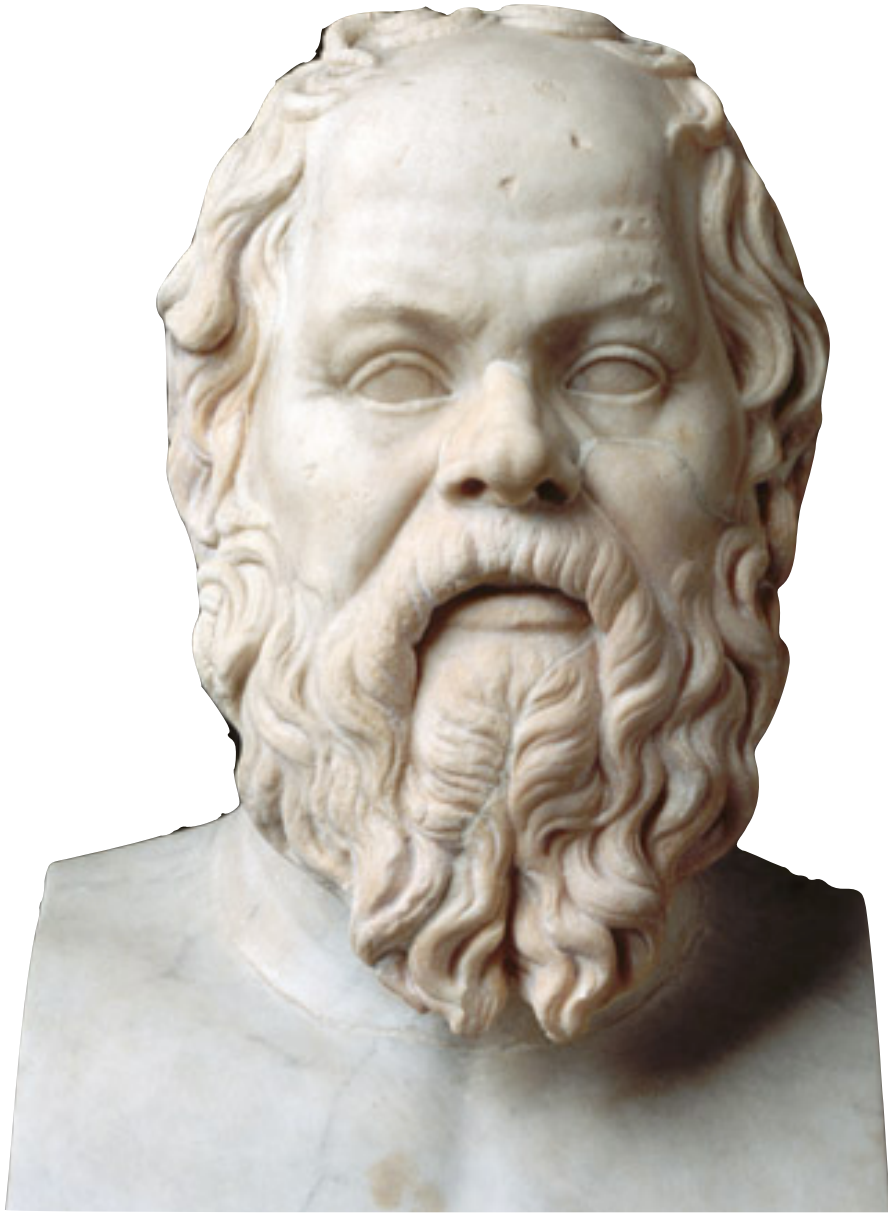


Can you think of any other academic departments at Notre Dame that
might describe themselves in this way?

This is no accident. All of these other fields — the natural sciences (like physics, chemistry, and biology), the social and human sciences (like economics, sociology, psychology, and political science), and others — were once part of philosophy. Isaac Newton was a philosopher; so was Charles Darwin; so was Adam Smith.

Yes, quite a few. Physics, economics, psychology, biology, sociology,
political science (maybe) the list goes on and on.



Socrates, who is sometimes considered the first philosopher, contrasted lovers of wisdom with two other sorts of people.

The first were people who formed belief on the basis of custom or tradition rather than argument.

The second were rhetoricians and sophists
who used arguments, not to form true
beliefs, but to achieve some other end.

What does it mean to have wisdom?

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Philosophy, by contrast, is the attempt to form true beliefs about the world on the basis of reason.

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