

HISTORY OF  
**ANCIENT GREECE**

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Meeting 8 **History, Tragedy, and Comedy**

- Art in Fifth Century Athens
- Tragedy and Comedy
- History and Philosophy
- Clouds

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**Upcoming dates**

- Monday 21 November *Clouds* Essay due via BlackBoard

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**Quiz #4 Recap: Legacy of the Persian Wars**

- What was the Delian League? What was its original purpose, and how did it change over the years?
- What struck you as most interesting or surprising in the text's discussion of family, marriage, and childhood, and why?
- All of the following are true about the Athenian Assembly EXCEPT:
  - (a) A law passed in 451 meant that both parents had to be Athenian to vote
  - (b) **it required a quorum of at least 60 citizens to pass important legislation**
  - (c) The frequency of its meetings increased from an average of once in a month to as often as once in every ten days
  - (d) It met on the Pnyx
- What was a metic? What kinds of roles did they play in Athens's society and economy?

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**Verbal arts**

- Philosophy and rhetoric
- Lyric poetry
- Tragedy
  - Aeschylus
  - Sophocles
  - Euripides
- Comedy
  - Aristophanes

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Reading  
Various / Accounts of the  
Hellenic Games



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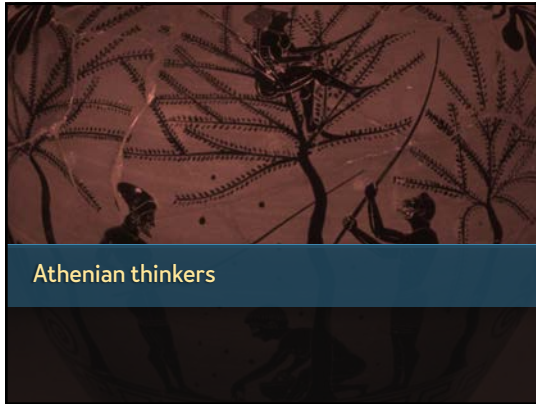
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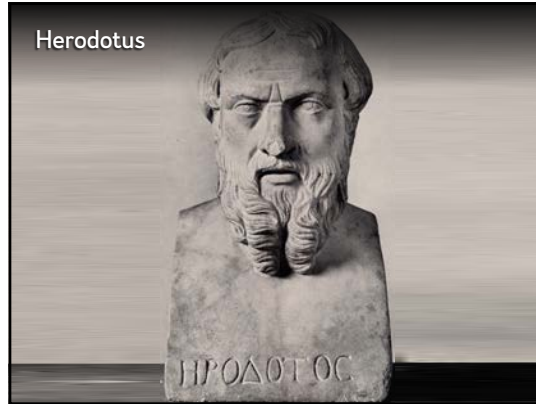
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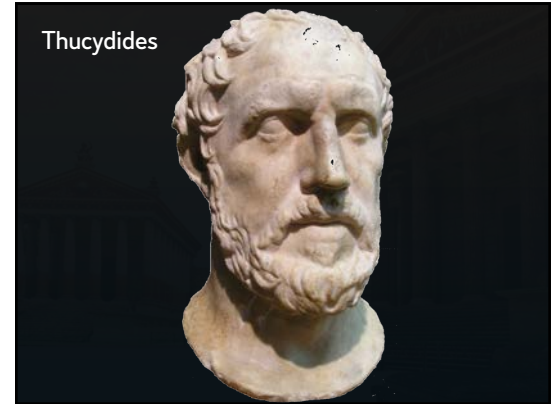
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### Natural Philosophy

- Chaos and Cosmos
- Anaxagoras
- Empedocles
- Leucippus and Democritus
- Hippocrates

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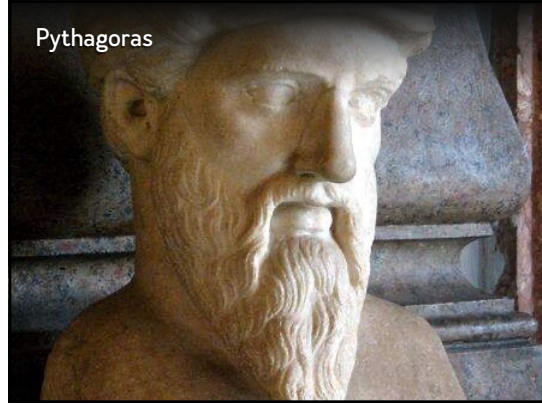
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Pythagoras



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Protagoras



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### Nomos vs. physis

#### Nomos (convention)

- Is morality merely arbitrarily dictated by society?
- Protagoras: "Man is the measure of all things"

#### Physis (nature)

- Is there a higher sanction to be found in something else, like the natural world?
- A search for ways to identify natural laws of morality and justice— universal truths

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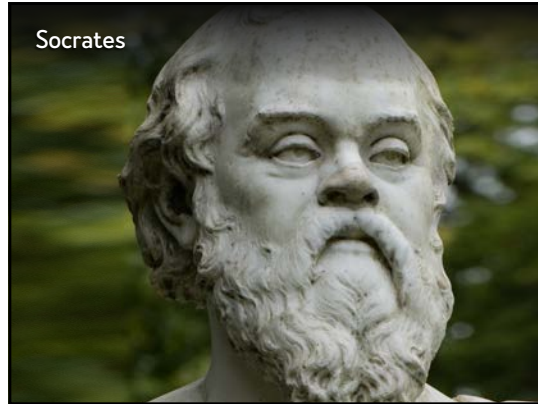
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Socrates



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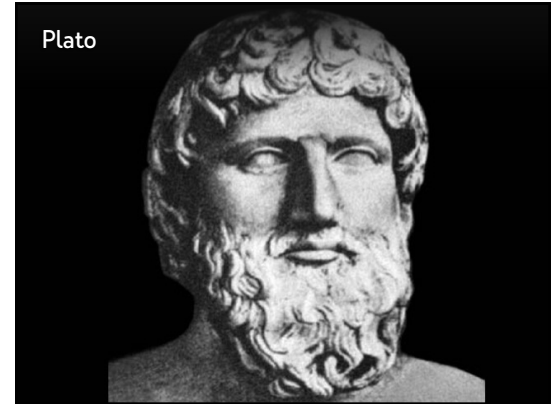
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Plato



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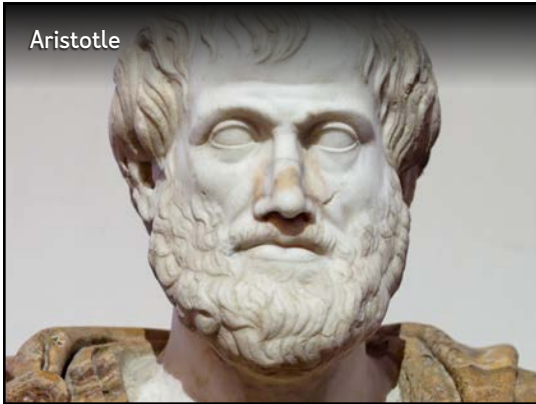
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Aristotle

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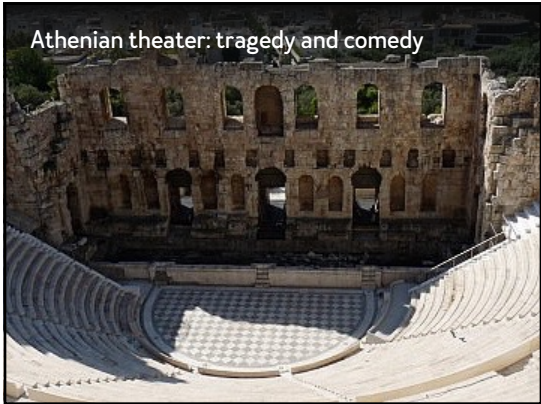
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Athenian theater: tragedy and comedy

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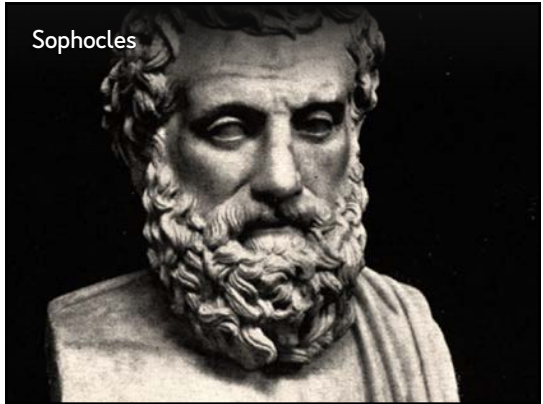
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Sophocles

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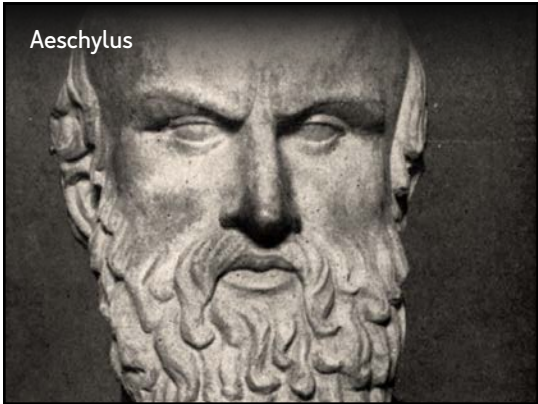
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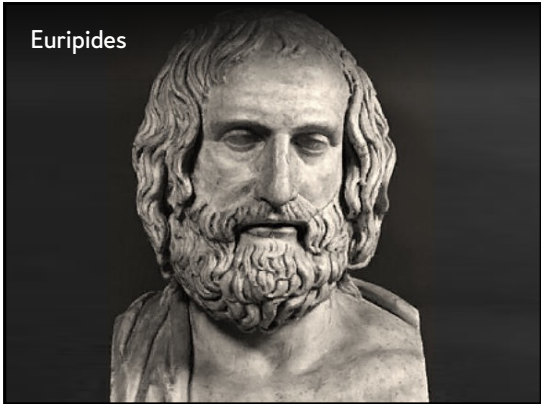
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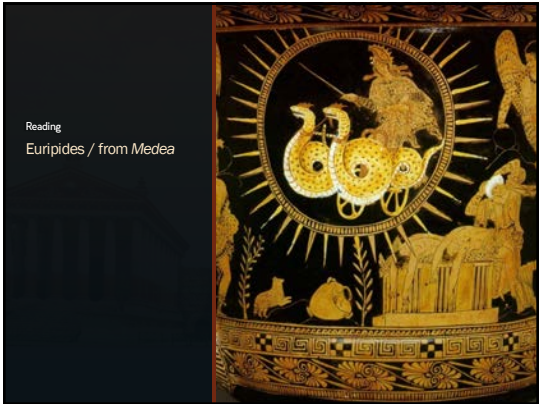
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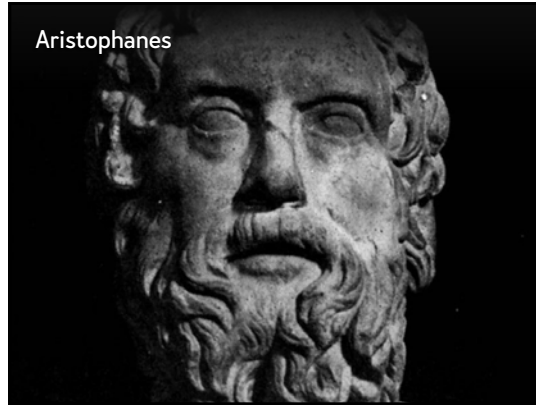
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<i>Archonians</i>	425 BCE
<i>Knights</i>	424
<i>Clouds</i>	423
<i>Wasps</i>	422
<i>Peace</i>	421
<i>Birds</i>	414
<i>Thesmophoria</i>	411
<i>Lysistrata</i>	411
<i>Frogs</i>	405
<i>Assemblywomen</i>	392
<i>Wealth</i>	388

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### Comedy

- Dionysian rites
- Old Comedy ca. 480–400 BCE
  - Extravagant burlesque employing gods and heroes
  - Vituperation of public or political targets
  - Sexual and scatological innuendo
  - Practitioners: Aristophanes and many others
- Middle Comedy ca. 400–350
  - Like Old Comedy but with more general targets
- New Comedy ca. 350–260
  - Use of stock characters; comedic love
  - Lampoons contemporary morality, everyday man
  - Practitioners: Menander, Plautus and Terence

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### Structure of Old Comedy

Prologos	Protagonist's idea
Parodos	Entry of chorus
Agon	Debate about idea
Parabasis	Chorus's monologue
Episodes	Idea implemented
Feast	Carnal celebration

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**The Clouds – Characters**

- Strepsiades      *A farmer who married an aristocratic lady*
- Pheidippides    *His son, a playboy*
- "Socrates"
- Students of Socrates
- Creditors
- "Just Argument" and "Unjust Argument"

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**The Clouds Essay**



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**The position paper**



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