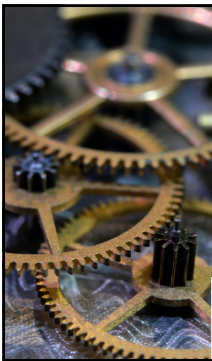




History, Tragedy, and Comedy
History of Ancient Greece | Meeting #8

1



Upcoming Dates

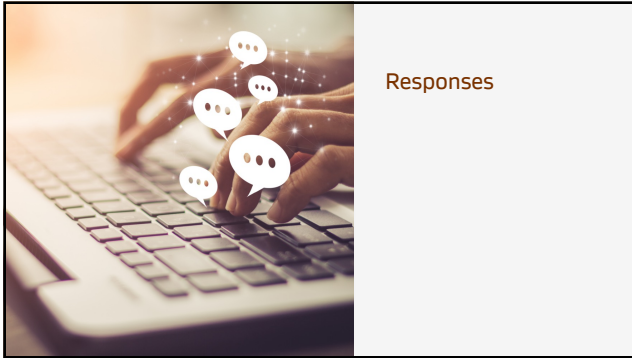
- Monday, January 1
Images Essay Due
- Monday, January 1
Images Essay Due
- Sunday, August 31
Responses for Week 1 Due

2

Five things today

- The Age of Perikles
- Athenian Visual Arts
- Athenian Theater
- *Birds*
- Athenian Thinkers

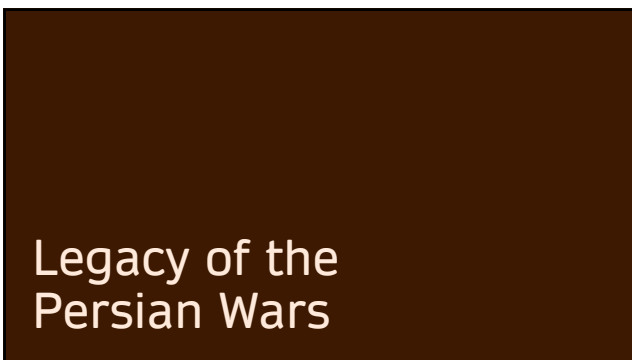
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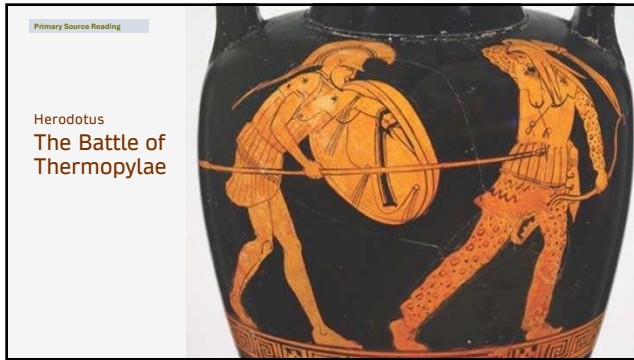
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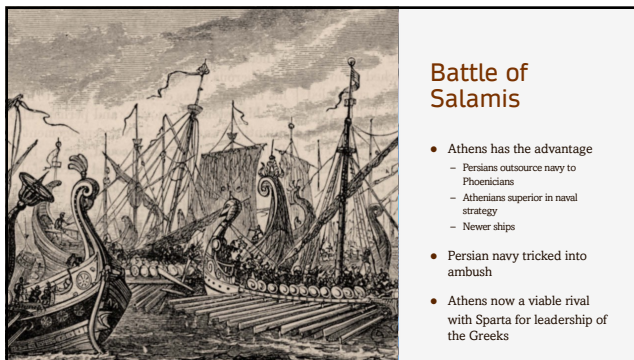
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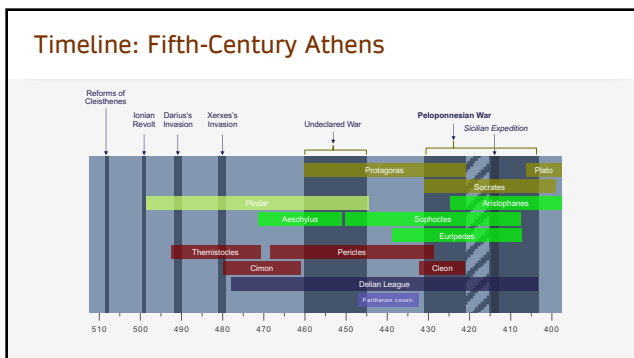
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9



Hegemony

- Poleis are independent and sovereign
- Persian invasion causes a perceived need for leadership
- Athens becomes a viable rival for Sparta after Salamis

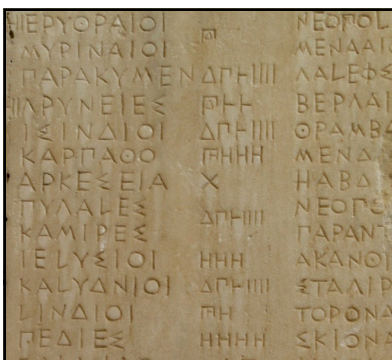
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Persian rule over Ionia

- Persian empire had absorbed Greek lands in Anatolia
- After Persian withdrawal, Greeks sought to take them back

11



Delian League

- Spartans decline to lead Greeks on the offensive
- Athenians form naval alliance
 - Member states can contribute ships or tribute
 - Treasury kept on island of Delos
- Ionia and Caria recovered after several swift naval victories
- Delian League does not disband

12

The "Athenian Empire"



13

Delian League: Hegemony or Empire?

- Cleruchies and forced membership
- Citizenship Act of 451
- Transfer of the Treasury
- Coinage Decree
- Athenian "despotism"
- Support of *demos*, opposition of *aristoi* across Hellas

14

Birds

15



Birds (Ὀρνιθες)

- An evocation of fantasy
- More elaborate in staging, costume, and performance
- Social criticism less targeted toward individuals or groups

16

Characters in *Birds*

- Peisthetaeros and Euelpides
pays 'theh 'tay' rohs yool 'pih' deez
- Epops, the Hoopoe
- Prometheus
- The gods
- The birds (chorus)



17

Primary Source Reading

Aristophanes
Birds,
first half



18

Key ideas in *Birds*

- Peisthetaeros and Euelpides and their disillusionment with Athens
- The Hoopoe as a guide
- Religion and the gods
- The city of the birds as a utopia
- Why birds?
- Real-life context: allegory or absurdity?
- Escapism vs. idealism

19

Nomos vs. physis

- How do we know what is just?
- 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

20

Kinds of utopia

Imaginary spaces (*utopia*) are defined in terms of existent customs (*nomos*)

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Anomia: | no rules | ex: cyclopes in Homer |
| • Antinomia: | reversal of real-life rules | ex: Amazonians |
| • Eunomia: | ideal rules | ex: Plato's republic |
| • Megalonomia: | exaggerated rules | ex: "imperial Rome" |

How does "Cloudcuckooland" fit into this?

21

Athenian Democracy

22

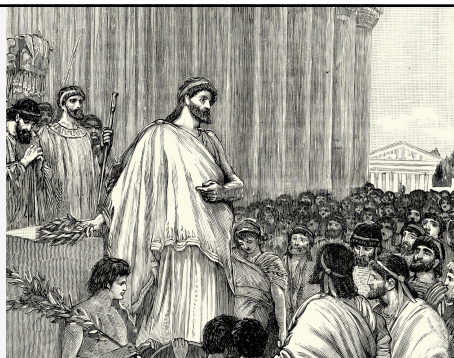
Athenian Democracy

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizen Assembly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Quorum of 6,000 – Legislation, election, decrees, trials | <i>ekklesia</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council of 500 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Prepares measures for the Assembly – Executes will of Assembly (administration) – Chosen by lot | <i>boulē</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archons <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Chosen by lot | <i>archontes</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Military magistrates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Elected by Assembly | <i>strategoi</i> |

23

Primary Source Reading

Pseudo-Xenophon On the Athenian Constitution



24



What are the problems with democracy?

- Burden on voters
 - Travel required
 - Free time required
- Faction
- Demagoguery
- Tyranny of the Majority
- Ostracism

25

Primary Source Reading

Antiphon

Arguments in an Accidental Homicide



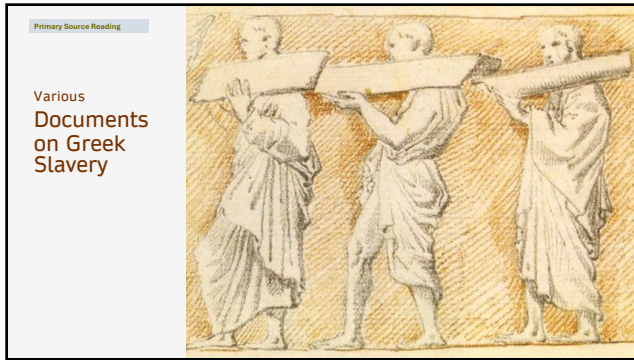
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Athenian classes

- Pentacosiomedimnoi 500+
 - Largest property-holders
 - Eligible for archonship and council
- Hippeis 300+
 - Rich enough to keep a horse
- Zeugitae 200+
 - Could afford yoked oxen / hoplite armor
- Thetes
 - Wageworkers
- Metics
 - Noncitizen resident aliens
- Slaves

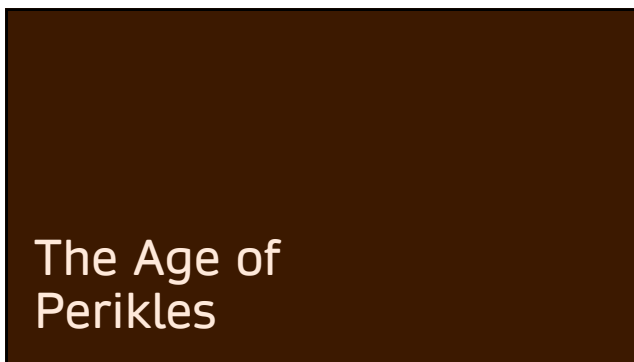
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Primary Source Reading

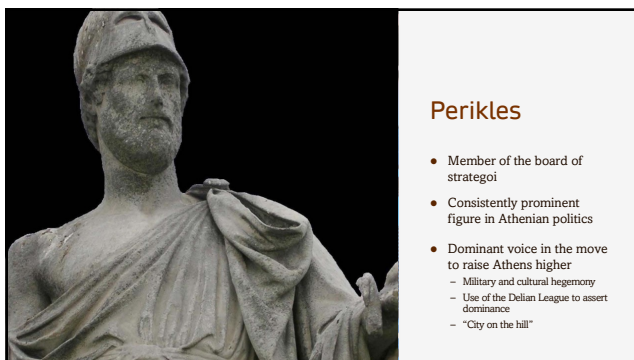
Various Documents on Greek Slavery

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The Age of Perikles

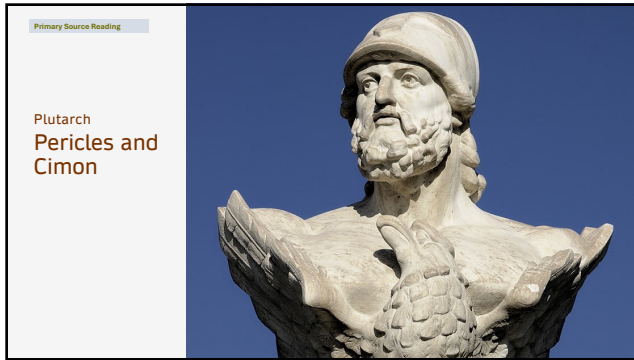
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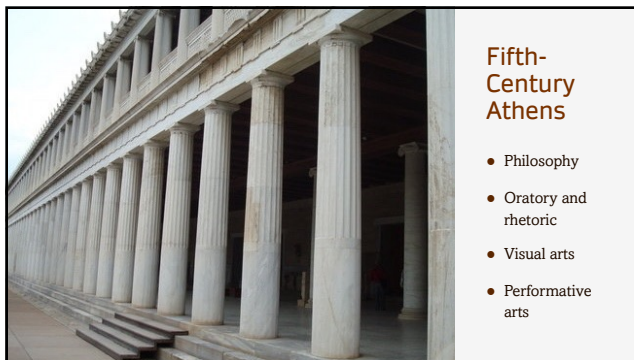
Perikles

- Member of the board of strategoi
- Consistently prominent figure in Athenian politics
- Dominant voice in the move to raise Athens higher
 - Military and cultural hegemony
 - Use of the Delian League to assert dominance
 - "City on the hill"

30



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32



33



34



35



36



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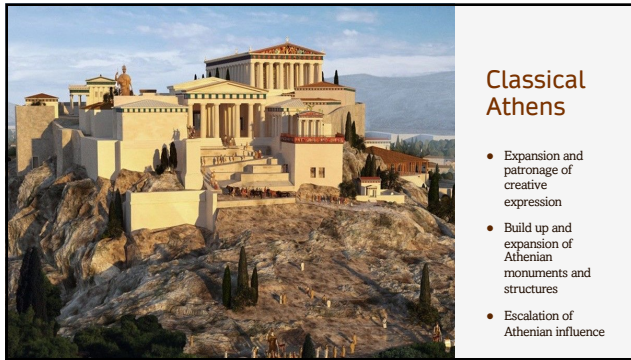
Verbal arts

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

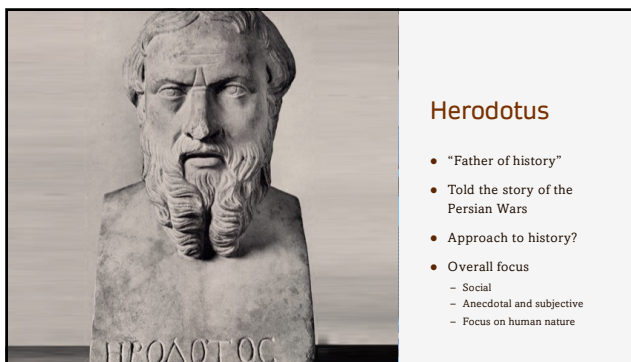
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Athenian thinkers

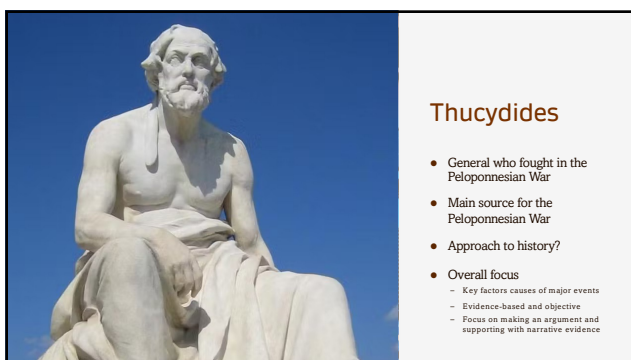
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Natural philosophy

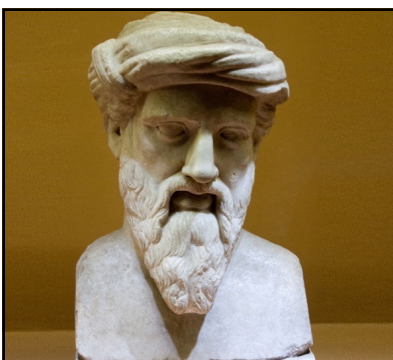
- Chaos ("expanse")
 - Primal void / unformed mass
 - First thing to exist
 - First gods created from its substance
- Cosmos ("order")
 - Order and structure brought to the chaos
- Strong contrast
 - Chaos is the alternative to cosmos
 - Chaos is before / outside
 - Earth (place of order) vs. space (above or below)
 - Discussed in *Birds*
- Nous ("awareness")
 - Human genius
 - Faculty of the human mind necessary for understanding what is true or real
 - Source of reason and cosmos

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Natural philosophy

- Anaxagoras
 - Attempted to give a scientific account of eclipses, meteors, rainbows, and the sun
 - Famous for introducing the cosmological concept of Nous (mind), as an ordering force
- Empedocles
 - Originator of the cosmogenic theory of the four classical elements (earth, water, air, fire)
- Leucippus and Democritus
 - Everything is composed entirely of various imperishable, indivisible elements called atoms
- Hippocrates
 - Father of Western medicine
 - Use of prognosis and clinical observation, the systematic categorization of diseases, or the formulation of humoral theory

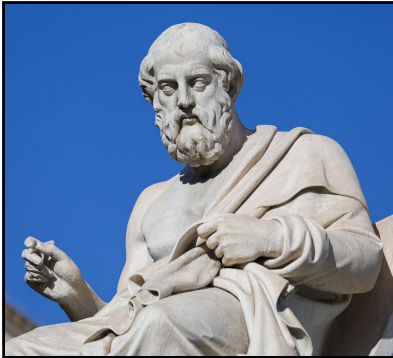
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Pythagoras

- From Samos, sixth century
- Key ideas
 - Mathematical and scientific discoveries
 - Music and harmony
 - The rationality of aesthetics
- Founder of Pythagoreanism
 - Transmigration of souls
 - Communal life
- Saw himself as a lover of wisdom ("philosopher")

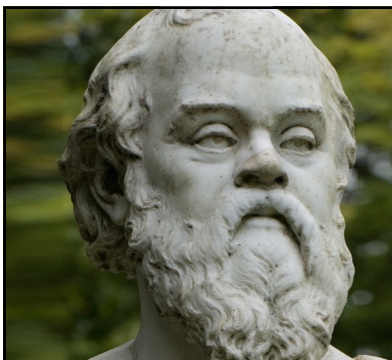
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Protagoras

- From Abdera, sixth century
- Considered a sophist
- "Nomos" philosophy
 - "Of all things the measure is Man, of the things that are, that they are, and of the things that are not, that they are not"

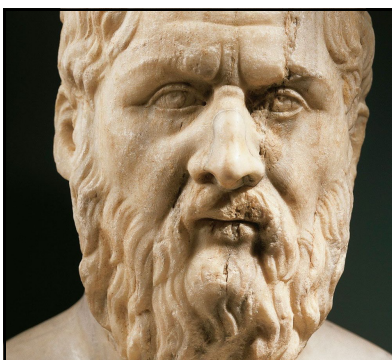
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Socrates

- Sought universal truths by eliminating unreason
- Process was to ask a series of questions that exposed irrational and superstitious thought
- Never wrote anything
 - Change created through dialog
 - Known through the writings of Plato
- Traditionalists saw him as a threat to order
 - Subject of Aristophanes's *Clouds*
 - Executed in 399 for irreligion and corruption of the youth
- Then and now considered the founder of modern philosophy

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Plato

- Student of Plato
- Comes across as more pessimistic about human nature
- Key works
 - Dialogs of Socrates
 - *Republic*

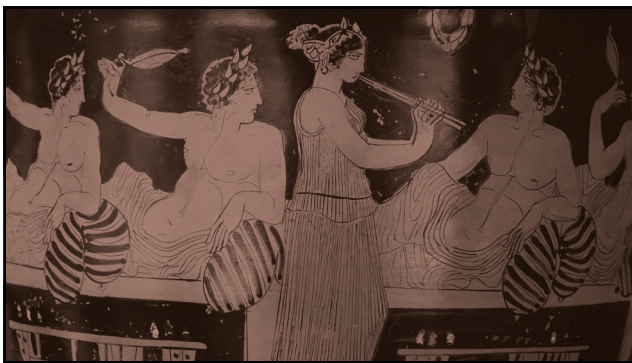
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Aristotle

- “Third generation” of Socratic philosophy
- Practical application of philosophy
 - Surveyed existing knowledge in many fields—politics, theater, poetry
 - Examined what worked and what did not
 - Derived basic principles
- Tutor of Alexander the Great

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