



# ANCIENT PHILOSOPHERS

Asst. Lecturer Aya Shukri Mohammed

Criticism

Second Semester

Week number 2

Feb 2025

# Outline

- **Previous lectures**
- **Criticism in Philosophy**
- **Greek Philosophers**
- **Socrates**
- **Plato**
- **Aristotle**

# Previous Lecture

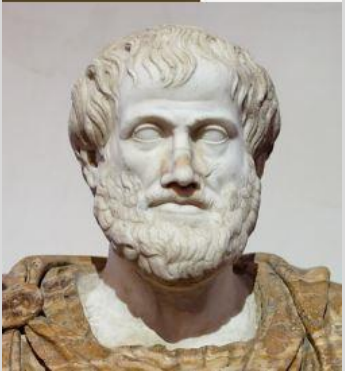
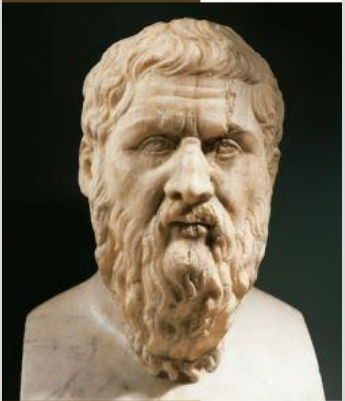
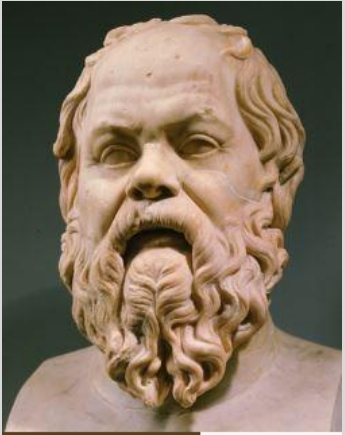
- **What is Criticism?**
- **Introduction to Criticism**
- **Steps of literary criticism**
- **What is Architecture Criticism**
- **Basic Elements of Criticism**

**Criticism**

**Crit** 'Crit' is short for 'critique'

**Critique**

**Critic**



# Criticism in Philosophy

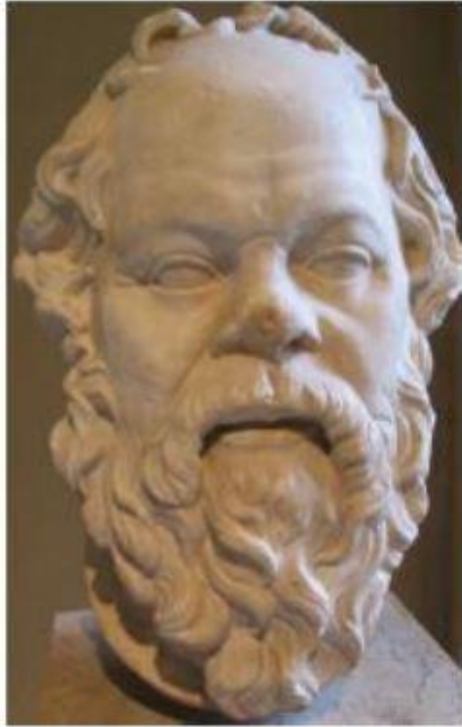
## Socrates-Plato-Aristotle

Greek civilization focused on **aesthetic governance** and produced **critical thinking on the Arts**.

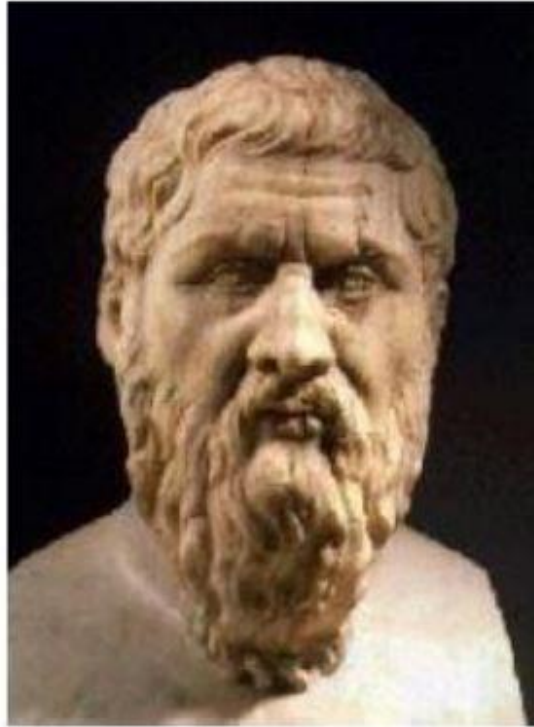
Philosophers: **Socrates, Plato and Aristotle**, have **formed the seeds of art criticism theory in the fifth century BC**, where these philosophers wrote the **first books** in the philosophy of **Art and beauty**.

The ideas that came out of these philosophers about **aesthetic judgment and perception of art and artists**, was a unique concept for critical vision to **express public taste in that era**.

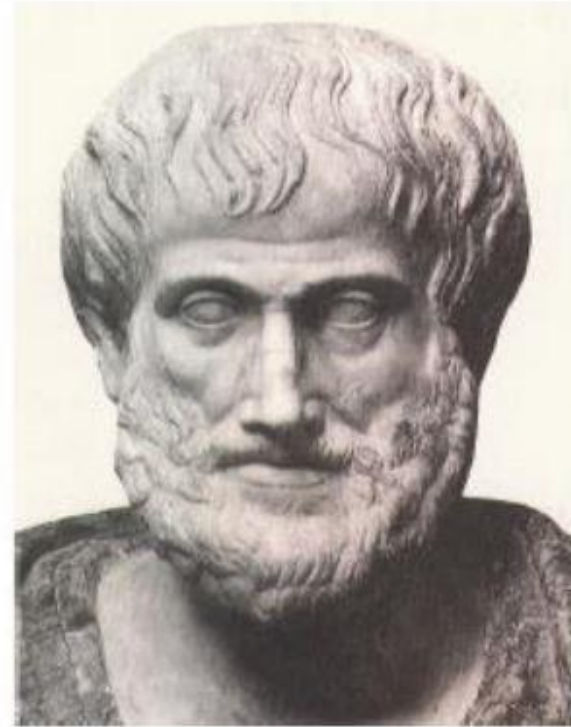
# The Three Most Famous Classical Philosophers



Socrates



Plato



Aristotle



# Greek Philosophers

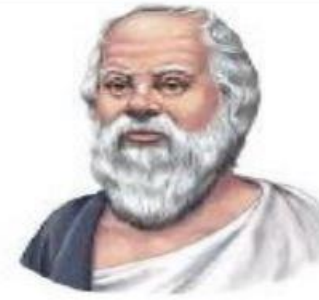
Philosophers ~ “lovers of wisdom”

Sophists ~ “workers of wisdom”  
~ Teachers

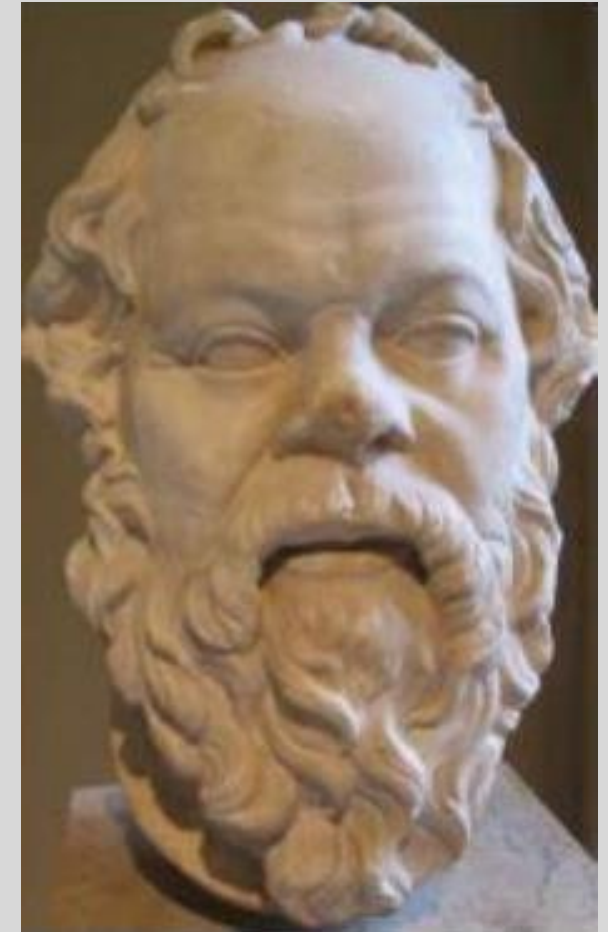
phileo = love  
Sophia = wisdom



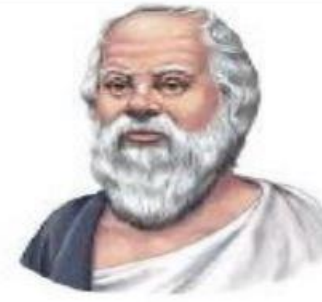
# SOCRATES (470/469 – 399 BC)



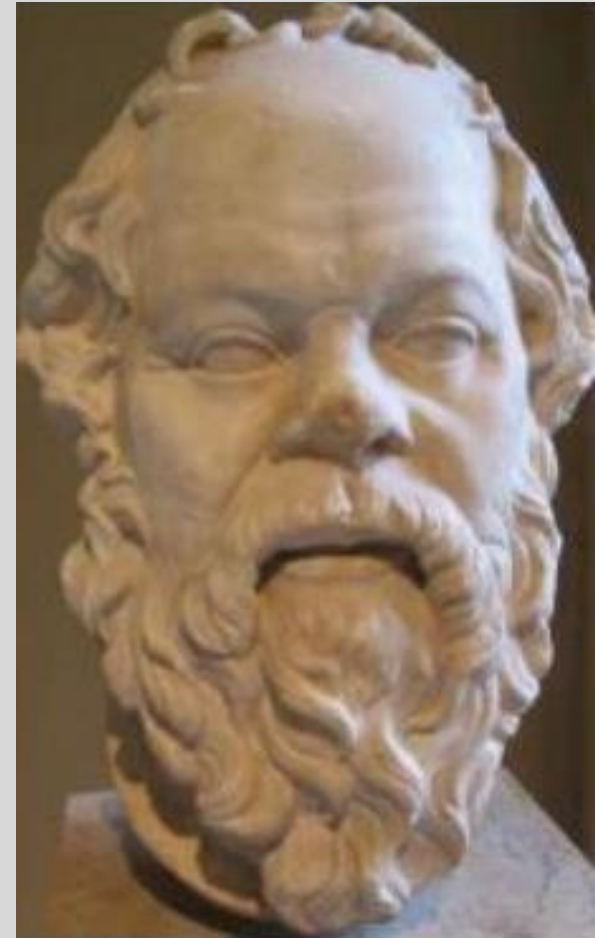
- Socrates of Athens is a Greek philosopher who is known for **his contributions to the development of ancient Greek philosophy** which provided the foundation for all of **Western Philosophy**.
- He never wrote down any of his teachings, Plato did that for him.
- Questioned people through discussion or dialogues.



# SOCRATES (470/469 – 399 BC)

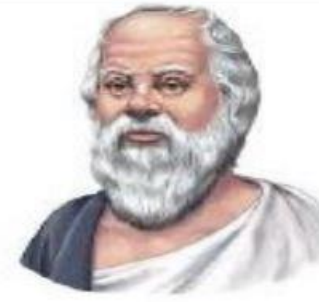


- Socrates had linked the concept of beauty to the principle of purpose or benefit, and the benefit has stated that "everything useful is wonderful and beautiful."





# SOCRATES (470/469 – 399 BC)



**DIALECTIC:** A method of seeking truth through a series of questions and answers.

The Socratic method is a “dialectic” method teaching.

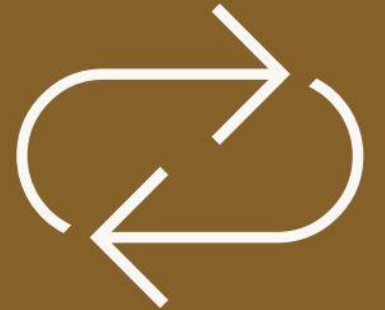
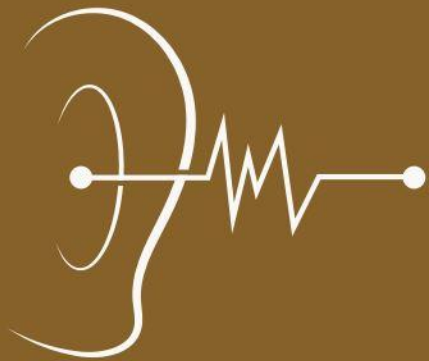
To solve a problem, it is broken down into a series of questions, the answers to which gradually refine the answer a person would seek

# Socratic method

The Socratic method is a process of dialogue based on questioning that inspires critical thinking and analysis

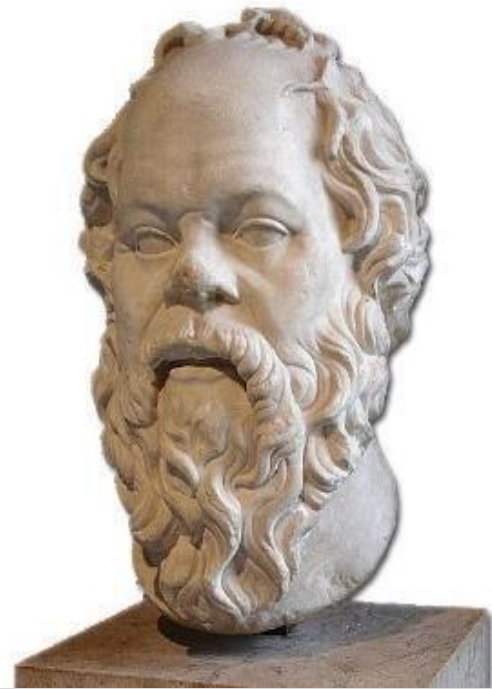
There are 5 steps to follow in order to have a Socratic Dialogue:

- ① **Receive**
- ② **Reflect**
- ③ **Refine**
- ④ **Re-state**
- ⑤ **Repeat**



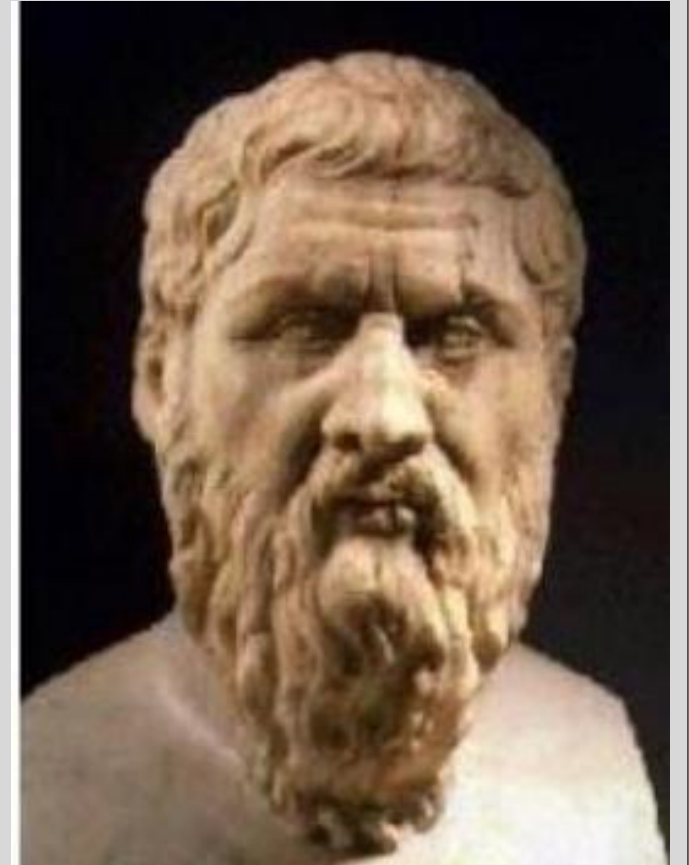
“Strong minds discuss ideas,  
average minds discuss events, weak  
minds discuss people.”

Socrates



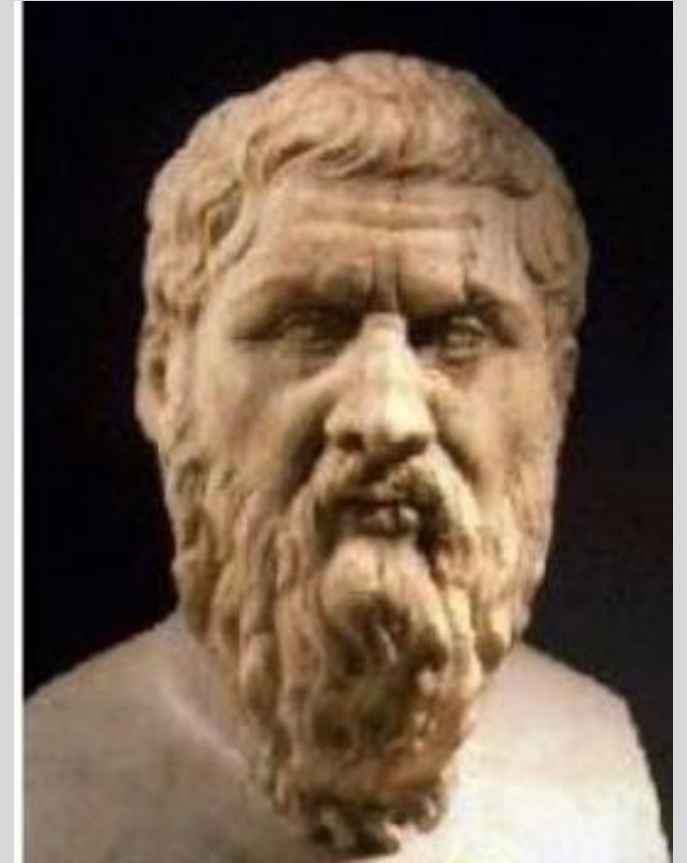
# Plato

- Plato, ancient Greek philosopher, student of Socrates, teacher of Aristotle, and founder of the Academy, the first institution for higher education
- First Western philosopher, whose writings have survived
- Most of what we know about Socrates comes from Plato's writings



# Plato

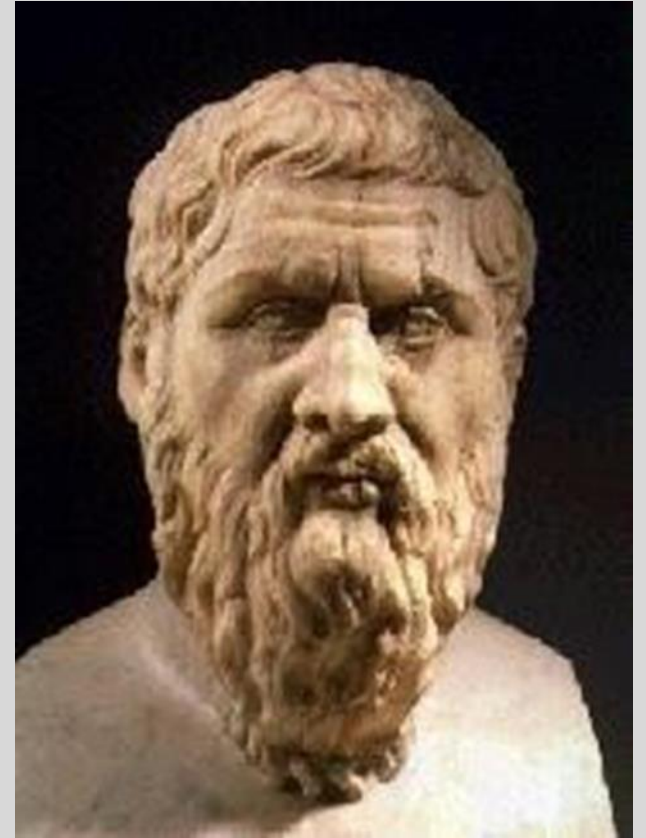
- Plato has talked about **ideals**, and art with him was a
- simulation of nature, and to transfer an image from reality (Transferred picture from reality is false).
- **Theory of ideas: there is a higher reality than experience a perfect form of everything exists.**
- **The beauty** in his view is relative, more deficient in our world.
- Full beauty can be achieved only in a **perfect world**.
- Beauty was divided into two types: **voluptuous beauty** is the **lowest degrees** of beauty, the beauty of the **soul or mental beauty**, a **top-class beauty**.





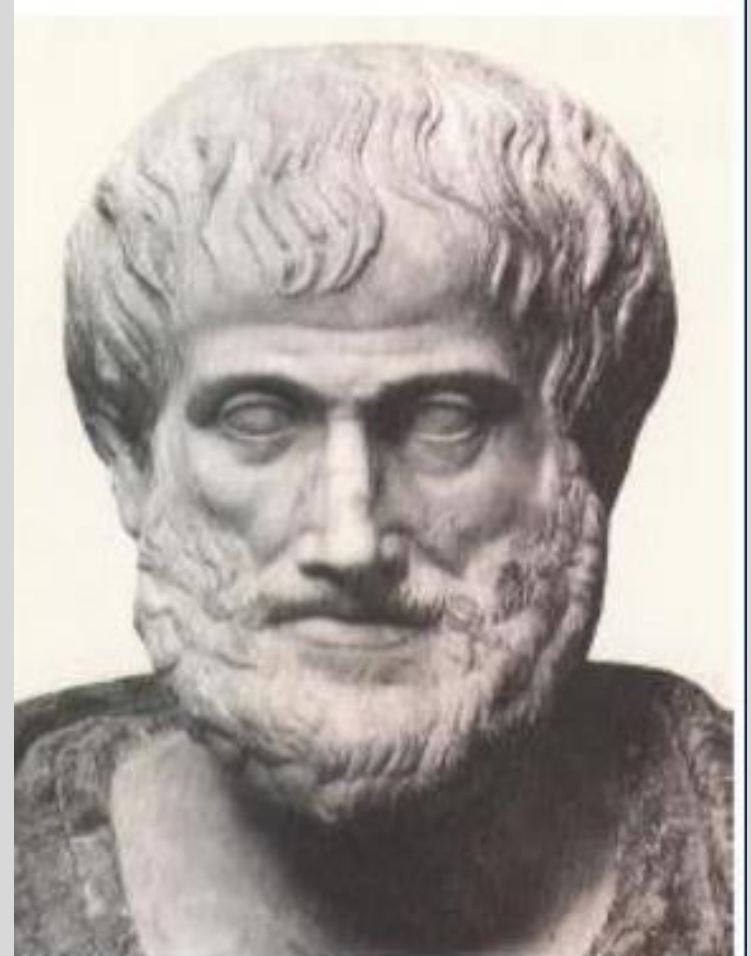
# Plato's Ideas In Criticism

- He was the first ancient philosopher who had **given a systematic shape to criticism.**
- Art must play a role in the perfect Greek Republic. Poets may stay as servants of the state if they teach piety and virtue, but the pleasures of art are condemned as corrupting to citizens.
- If art does not teach morality and ethics, then it is damaging to its audience. Plato's ideas about art and literature are classified as moral criticism



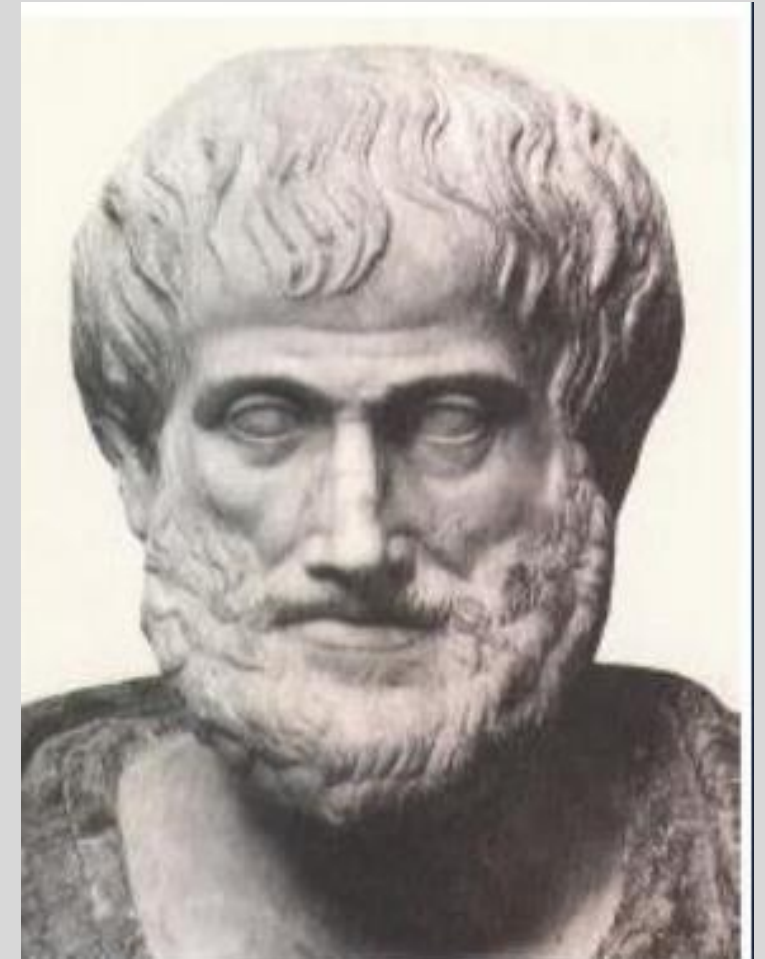
# Aristotle

- Aristotle was a **Greek philosopher** during the Classical period in Ancient Greece.
- Most famous student of **Plato**.
- Most famous teacher of **Alexander the Great**.
- His writings cover many subjects including **physics, biology, , metaphysics, logic, ethics**.



# Aristotle

- The first to classify areas of **human knowledge** into distinct disciplines such as **mathematics, biology, and Ethics.**
- Aristotle divided Arts into the **Benefit arts, and fine arts**, also he laid the **foundations and rules of some of the arts.**
- Aristotle believed that the beauty is what show **coherence and harmony and clarity**, which varies with Plato, he proves the existence of beauty in our world.
- Aristotle was the founder of the **Lyceum**, the first scientific institute, based in Athens, Greece



# TRIUMVIRATE



**S**OCRATES



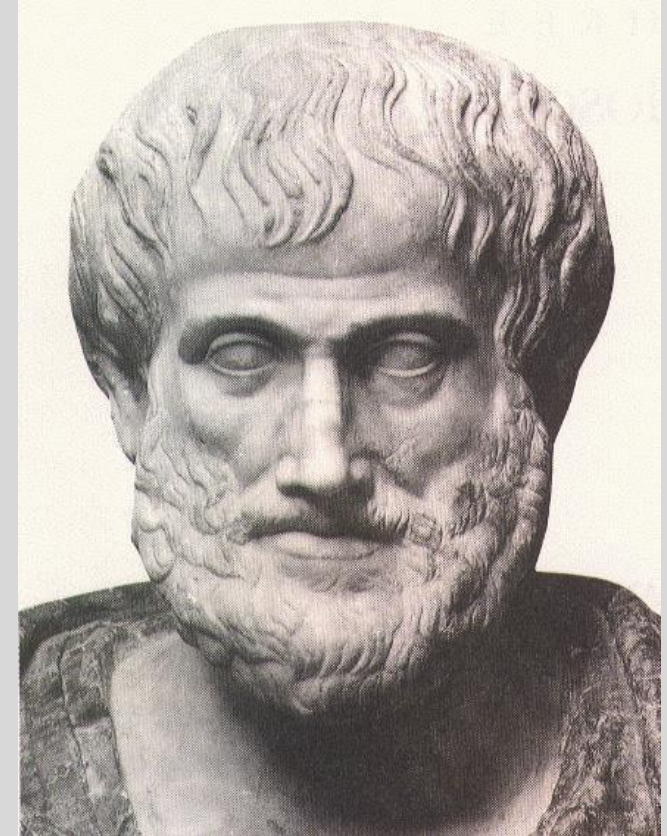
**P**LATO



**A**RISTOTLE  
(FATHER OF  
PHILOSOPHY)

# Aristotle

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- He was the first to devise a formal system for reasoning, whereby the validity of an argument is determined by its structure rather than its content





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# References

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