

Socrates (470BC-399)

The sh*t disturber. Taking philosophy to the streets. Read: *Apology by Plato*

Socratic Method. Play the fool. Agree with your opponent and ask questions that guide them to contradiction.

Death. Guilty of 'corrupting the youth in Athens'. He defends himself and is condemned to drink poison.

Bill Maher's show cancellation after 9/11, a kid asking 'why?'

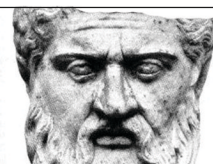
Plato (427BCE-347)

'All European Philosophy is a footnote to Plato'. Truth exists in the mind not the physical world. Read: *The Republic*

Allegory of the Cave. We're all looking at shadows but the philosopher turns to see the light. **Allegory of the Ship.**

How do you handle Truth?

math, truth is a solution to democratic political rhetoric



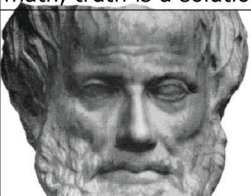
Aristotle (384 BCE-322)

The Philosopher. The man who became the curriculum. Read: *Poetics*

Final cause. Everything has its proper, natural place. Tutor of Alexander and founder of the Lyceum (school).

Organon. A collection of his six works becomes the core teachings for . He wrote about everything: logic, virtue, physics, what makes a good play, categorizing sea life, etc.

what if he had seen a platypus?, catharsis,



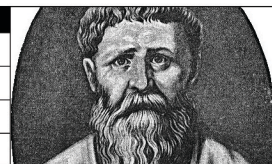
St. Augustine (354-430)

The Original Sinner. A convert to Christianity, wrote an autobiography. Read: *Confessions*

Humanity are born sinners who need God's grace. **Just War.** War must have a noble reason, proper authority, and love.

As Christianity was popularized it dealt with new subject matter for one thousand years.

desert storm was 'just war', new problems for Christianity: do clones have souls?, Scientology



Niccolo Machiavelli (1469-1527)

The End Justifies the Means. Political advice for staying in power. Read: *The Prince*

Realism. Everyone's doing it. You may have to use violence, deicet and fear if you're a new Prince.

Machiavellian: Use any manipulative method to get results.

Think of realism and idealism with steroid use in the Olympics, do you teach your kid to cheat?, Makaveli



Francis Bacon (1561-1626)

Early Scientific Vision. Read: *Novum Organum* (or google: The Idols of the Mind)

Break from tradition. F*ck Aristotle. What have we made? How have we put nature to our use?

Idols of the Mind. We're limited by our language, habits, institutions, and personal bias. Science is best acheived by a community.

Is scientfic cooperation a myth? (read Kuhn), abuse of nature,



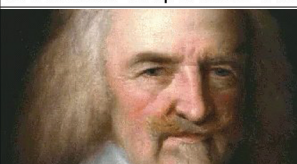
Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679)

Law of Government. read: *Leviathan*

State of nature. Life is hell, our desire to survive pits us against others. We must surrender to a greater authority.

Rational thinking about government replaces divine right. It requires thinking about human nature and social contracts.

your own *Lord of the Flies*, 28 Days Later,



Rene Descartes (1596-1650)

The Skeptic. Doubt everything. Math rules! Read: *Meditations*

I think therefore I am. I can't doubt that I'm thinking. That's my starting point for a complete mind-based philosophy (the senses are not to be trusted). A couple of steps later he proves God exists.

The struggle to make rational thought as reliable as math. Deductive and inductive reasoning

try reducing any of your beliefs to zero, ridiculous sports statistics



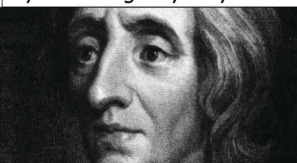
John Locke (1632-1704)

Law of Government. People are rational. We're blank slates. Read: *Two Treatises on Government*

Life, health, liberty, or possessions. Authority should respect individual rights. Otherwise revolution is an obligation.

Locke is a sign on the road to modern democracy. Property owners have a stake in decisions.

Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, breadwinners



Spinoza (1632-1677)

All is One. God is the natural world.

There is no free will. Emotion is our inability to understand. The world is perfect, disasters included.

Biblical interpretation. Transforming God into Nature.

criminal upbringing, images of God,



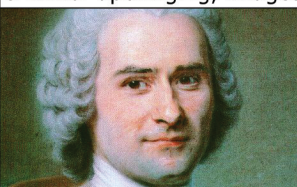
Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778)

Wild Child. Read: *Discourse on the Arts and Sciences*

Civilization corrupts. In the wild we are free. Society makes us petty, jealous, and prideful. We should obey the authority of the general will (but not have a democracy). **Romanticizing nature.**

Rousseau's criticisms contributed to the revolutionary climate of the Enlightenment.

fashion, Into the Wild, 'getting away from the city'



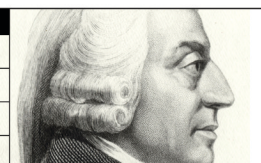
Adam Smith (1723-1790)

The First Economist. Understanding government and trade. Read: *Wealth of Nations*

Selfishness produces good. When we all look out for ourselves an **Invisible Hand** sets everything. Let competition flourish.

Economic liberalism: stop governments from intervening in the economy.

the lemonade stand and the invisible hand, tariffs, monopoly, neoliberalism,



David Hume (1711-1776)

Party Pooper. Putting limits on the Enlightenment.

Cause and Effect. Our 'natural laws' aren't reliable. There's no guarantee that one thing causes another. Heisenberg's uncertainty,

Immanuel Kant (1724-1804)

Rescuing the Enlightenment. **The punctual philosopher** arrives on time to save the day.

A response to Hume. Humans are built with limits and can use rationality to understand the world within their limits. The unlimited world only God can understand. **A rational basis for morals.** The moral law is within.

Utilitarianism



GWF Hegel (1770-1831)

The Study of Contradictions. Notoriously difficult writing. Read: Phenomenology of Spirit

History is a struggle of opposing ideas. Hegel becomes a huge influence in European Universities.

The owl of Minerva spreads its wings only with the falling of the dusk.



Charles Darwin (1809-1882)

The super nerd. Just wanted to study critters.

Evolution. Random mutation is an occasional benefit to survival.

Darwinism is twisted. "Survival of the fittest" is applied to ideas and human beings. There is no plan.

Read: *Origins of the Species*



Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862)

Cabin in the woods. Simple living in the woods. Read: *Walden*

Civil disobedience. Critic of government influence on the individual's life. Jailed for refusal to pay tax.

MLK, Gandhi inspired by his principled stance,



Karl Marx (1818-1883)

Communism. The workers will overthrow the owners to usher in a better age. Read: *The Communist Manifesto*

Workers and Owners. Looked at history for how things were made. Capitalism was amazing but exploitive.

Inevitable Revolution. The final step in human production. The proletariat will overthrow the bourgeoisie.

Russian, Chinese, Cuban revolutions, Cold War, who leads?



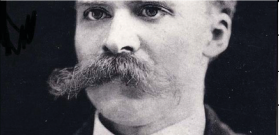
Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900)

The Bully. You're all frightened weaklings. Read: *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*

Our morals have been corrupted by Christianity. The Romans had it right. Strong is better than weak.

God is dead. A story about a madman in the streets. The decline of Truth.

Think of a rep team taking a house league team's mentality, is Terrel Owens the Ubermensch?, the Nazi misinterpretation



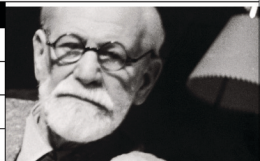
Sigmund Freud (1856-1939)

The Human Animal. Humans are irrational. Read: *Civilization and it's discontents*

We're irrational. Our personalities were made in childhood. **Dreams** show our animal instincts bubbling up past or censors.

Humans are knocked off their pedestal. Repression and projection are the rule.

Advertising for perfume, is psychology a science?



Ludwig Wittgenstein (1889-1951)

The Prodigy concludes it's a waste of time. Read: *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*

A Perfect Logical Language. All philosophy is a word game. Human referring to things that can't be represented.

Is this a severing from the past?



Simone de Beauvoir (1908-86)

Existentialism. Fiction and non-fiction. Read: *The Ethics of Ambiguity*

There is no script to your life, you make it with choice. You create meaning in your life.

Most people live in bad faith, they're daunted by seeing ambiguity.

Allowing something else to make our life choices,



bell hooks (1952-)

Feminism. Critical theory. Read: *Feminism is for Everybody*

Criticism of the **patriarchy.** **Ain't I a woman?** Bringing class and race to feminism.

Feminism has had three waves: 1) official recognition, 2) non-official recognition 3) addressing the movement

Sojourner Truth, critique of hip-hop, our slang

