
 <p>Thales, who invented Philosophy</p>	<h1>History of Philosophy</h1> <h2>Timeline &amp; Resources</h2> <p>by Albert Fried-Cassorla</p> <p>Last Updated March 8, 2016</p>	 <p>Me, who simply enjoys reading about it and discussing it</p>
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**Timeline:** This timeline is more of a provocative outline of interesting questions pertaining to key philosophers. I make no claims for completeness. If I am incorrect, please let me know via email to [albfcc@verizon.net](mailto:albfcc@verizon.net). My goals for this timeline are 1) to interest readers in how wonderful and interesting these philosophers were 2) to give provocative discussion materials to our Melrose Park Philosophy Club.

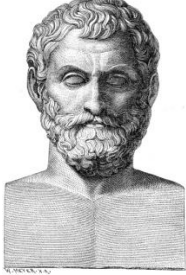

**Resources for History of Philosophy:** This section, which is farther below in the document, gives my opinion on just a few of the MANY excellent resources available for studying this topic. These include other, much more complete timelines, videos, books, and web sites. Many are FUN and interesting, especially the videos. Check them out!

**Mea Culpas aplenty!** I have left out Eastern Philosophy, many major religions and more. The timeline ends at 1225 AD, not at the end of philosophy but at the end of my energy for this topic! I hope to continue it and have in fact been encouraged to continue.

And now, my very incomplete but provocative...


### *Timeline of the History of Philosophy!*

Dates:	image	Philosopher, main ideas, key questions
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585 B.C.		<p><b>Thales of Miletus</b> - Widely considered the first philosopher. Bertrand Russell said that, among many others. Thales believed "All is water." <sup>i</sup> (Remember to see the more complete timelines referred to farther on in this document.)</p> <p>Questions: Was this simple belief a form of progress over Greek religion, or a move backwards? Would YOU have searched for a basic component of physical reality?</p>
610 - 547 BCE	 <p>Source: wikipedia.org public domain</p>	<p><b>Anaximander</b> - Believed in the Apeiron, infinite or limitless. He elucidated the elements: air earth wind and fire. Heisenberg called basic quantum elements apeiron in tribute to him. He was also an amazingly prescient philosopher of nature. Look into his work on the origins of humankind, weather, and geography. An amazing man!</p> <p>Question: Was Anaximander prescient as a physicist?</p>
c. 585 - 525 B.C.		<p><b>Anaximines of Miletus</b> - He believed that the essential element of the cosmos is air.</p> <p>Questions: Was he just another "crackpot" monist Pre-Socratic? Or do you respect his thinking, based on how non-existence science was back then?</p>
C 551 - 479 BCE		<p><b>Confucius</b> - He believed in justice, sincerity, family loyalty and more.</p> <p>Question: Was he popular because his views jibed so well with the status quo of the ruling elite?</p>
(c. 535 - 475 B.C.)		<p><b>Heraclitus of Ephesus</b> - He believed that the world is in a cycle of becoming. He said, according to Plato, " You could not step twice into the same river."</p> <p>Question: Does everything change, or do some things remain the same? Death, for example? Or birth, growth and decay?</p> <p>What makes more sense, his view or Parmenides' that change is impossible?</p>
(c. 515 - 450 B.C.)		<p><b>Parmenides of Elea</b> denied that change is possible.</p> <p>Question: Does it seem possible that he could make such an argument? His argument is complex.</p>
510-428		<p><b>Anaxagoras</b> - Believed in nous (mind) which gives order to the universe. It breaks out the homogeneous. To me, this makes sense.... not as far as idealism. say Berkeley's later position.</p>

<sup>1</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thales#/media/File:Illustrerad\\_Verldshistoria\\_band\\_I\\_III\\_107.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thales#/media/File:Illustrerad_Verldshistoria_band_I_III_107.jpg)

(c. 490 - 430 B.C.)		<p><b>Zeno of Elea</b> was a intellectual inheritor of some of Parmenides's views. One paradox might be rephrased: "If in order to get to point A you must travel half-way first, arriving at point B. Then to continue half-way from there, you must travel half way again to point C. And so on. Thus, you will never arrive at point A."</p> <p>Questions: Do you think this argument is valid? Is it worth pondering or is it a useless diversion? Is this the kind of viewpoint that gives philosophy a bad name (for being abstruse and abstract), or is it a wonderful insight?</p>
(c. 570 - 490 B.C.)		<p><b>Pythagoras</b> had a sect and was a cult leader. At the same time, he is one of the most prominent and famous mathematicians of all time. He believe that that all reality is governed by numbers.</p> <p>Questions: Do you agree? What is NOT governed by numbers? If a person revealed that irrational numbers exist, he might be killed by the cult. Would you reveal them for the sake of truth? (Personally, I would not!) Socrates</p>
470 - 399 BCE		<p><b>Socrates</b> - Had an aristocratic view, created Socratic method, died for his beliefs, was ridiculed by Aristophanes on The Clouds.</p> <p>Question: What was his most lasting contribution to our world? Socratic method? Fighting for one's beliefs? Not fearing death?</p>
424 - 328		<p><b>Plato</b> - Created the Myth of the Cave, theory of forms and much more. Perhaps the single most famous philosopher. (too much to write!)</p>
		<p><b>Aristotle</b> - Aristotle is said by many people to have been the greatest philosopher who ever lived. He was certainly one of the most systematic. He practically invented several fields of philosophy that we study today.</p>
C 341 - 270		<p><b>Epicurus</b> - He emphasized friendship as one of the great routes to happiness. His own group was called The Garden. He avoided politics and said his adherents should avoid it as well. Epicurus was probably the most popular philosopher of his era.</p> <p>Question: Some people say philosophy has failed humanity by becoming allowing religion to answer most of life's basic questions, and to dominate. Do you agree? Were they ever truly in competition with one another?</p>

354-430 CE	 2	<b>St. Augustine -aka Augustine of Hippo</b> - He may have originated the doctrine of Original Sin, as well as the theory of Just Wars.  Question: If the above assertions are true, was St Augustine on the whole a positive or negative influence on the history of humanity?
1287 - 1347 AD		<b>William of Ockham</b> - believed the least complex solution is often the best (Ockham's Razor)  Question: Was there really such a large gap between significant philosophers? Or only in my record-keeping or that of others?
1225 - 1274 AD		<b>St. Aquinas</b> - Never considered himself a philosopher. Altered neoplatonic ideas to make them work with Christianity.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_philosophy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_philosophy)

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## Albert's History of Philosophy BOOKS, ON-LINE READINGS, and VIDEOS

Dear friends,



The following are recommended readings and "watchings" designed to help you become acquainted with the History of Philosophy. I am admittedly no expert, but that has not stopped me from having opinions! This is a mainly a compendium site

I am at the beginning of this page going to emphasize the earliest history of Western philosophy. Eventually, I will include Eastern Philosophy and later eras.

### Books:

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<sup>2</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Augustine\\_of\\_Hippo#/media/File:Augustinus\\_1.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Augustine_of_Hippo#/media/File:Augustinus_1.jpg)

Title	Image	My opinion:
<b>Bertrand Russell's A History of Western Philosophy</b>		Many people consider this the prime History of Philosophy book to have and refer to. I like dipping into it. He is wry and thought-provoking. Long live Russell's thoughts and words!
<b>Will Durant's</b>		Durant is very readable and enjoyable. Unfortunately, he skips the Pre-Socratics completely. I have carried this paperback (tiny book) with me on many a trip. Better than on a Kindle!
<b>Frederick Copleston</b>	<b>A History of Philosophy, Vols. 1, 2 and 3, and possible more.</b>	There are at least three books in this series, each covering a different era. Highly regarded.
<b>Anthony Kenny</b>	<b>A NEW History of Philosophy</b>	This book has received some very high praise from readers on Amazon.com. I hope to become familiar with it.

**On-Line Readings:**

Web address:	My opinion:
Wikipedia <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_philosophy">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_philosophy</a> 13 pages	These 13 pages are a helpful introduction. However, you may want to just read the first few pages and then move on to "the beginning of the beginning," or the Pre-Socratics. See below.
Pre-Socratic philosophy <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pre-Socratic_philosophy">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pre-Socratic_philosophy</a>	Here, you get a shorter, deeper approach to the earliest days of Philosophy.

<p>Graph of the Pre-Socratics</p> <p><a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pre-Socratic_philosophy#/media/File:Presocratic_graph.svg">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pre-Socratic_philosophy#/media/File:Presocratic_graph.svg</a></p>	<p>For the visual learners among you, this might be useful. It IS colorful, but may be confusing.</p>
<p>History of Philosophy without any gaps</p> <p><a href="http://historyofphilosophy.net/">http://historyofphilosophy.net/</a></p>	<p>This is a podcast site, well done and nicely laid out. It seems VERY comprehensive and includes relevant links to books.</p> <p>To begin at the beginning here, see the menu ribbon nearer the top and choose Classical. Then you may want to start with Thales, whom almost everyone agrees is the starting point of Western Philosophy.</p> <p>Also see the menu link to the timelines of philosophy.</p>
<p><a href="http://www.philosophybasics.com/general_quick_history.html">http://www.philosophybasics.com/general_quick_history.html</a></p>	<p>Here is the Entire History of Philosophy in 6 8 1/2" x 11" pages. Quite an ambitious undertaking.</p>

### Videos

<b>Web address:</b>	<b>My opinion:</b>
<p>Academy of Ideas Introduction to the Presocratics <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZkMAx04jDx0">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZkMAx04jDx0</a> especially Parmenides: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MbDW1836TXg">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MbDW1836TXg</a></p>	<p>This is my favorite web site series for the history of philosophy. They are clearly voiced, intelligently written and well-illustrated with a remarkable combination of text and graphics. I do not believe they are in alphabetical order but they seem to cover an incredibly large range of topics.</p> <p>The Parmenides one does a great job of presenting his difficult-to-follow arguments.</p>

<p>History Of Western Philosophy Part 1/3 Also parts 2 &amp; 3 <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=in_UTzLMLTY">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=in_UTzLMLTY</a> Posted by <a href="#">amaninasafwanah abdullaziz</a></p>	<p>Very professionally done. Seems like a BBC production, but no such credit is given.</p>
<p>Arthur Holmes A History of Philosophy   01 The Beginning of Greek Philosophy <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yat0ZKduW18">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yat0ZKduW18</a></p>	<p>Holmes has a dry but engaging professorial style. He is a professor of Philosophy at Wheaton College. These are filmed lectures. along with his board notes. It feels like you are in a lecture hall with him (which in a sense you are!). He has many such episodes, at least 70.</p>
<p>history of philosophy without any gaps (PODCAST)  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-WbdhzecB3b31TuBjxvulg">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-WbdhzecB3b31TuBjxvulg</a></p>	<p>There are 17 podcast videos (no visuals) of high quality</p>
<p>University of Oxford Marianne Talbot (2008) One lecture, 1 hour 30 minutes approx  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=16TegBGFTn8">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=16TegBGFTn8</a></p>	<p>She has a cheery attitude and a great British accent. (I'm a sucker for that.) More importantly, she covers much material in a short span and quite clearly. The video is fuzzy unfortunately, and so the slides are not easily readable. Much back and forth with students, although they are not individually mic'ed.</p>
<p>A brief conceptual history of Philosophy <a href="#">Massimo Pigliucci</a>  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r5TJYhZeZs8">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r5TJYhZeZs8</a></p>	<p>6 minutes - the first 3 minutes cover the early Greeks to the Renaissance, but the whole 6 minutes will be well spent!</p>