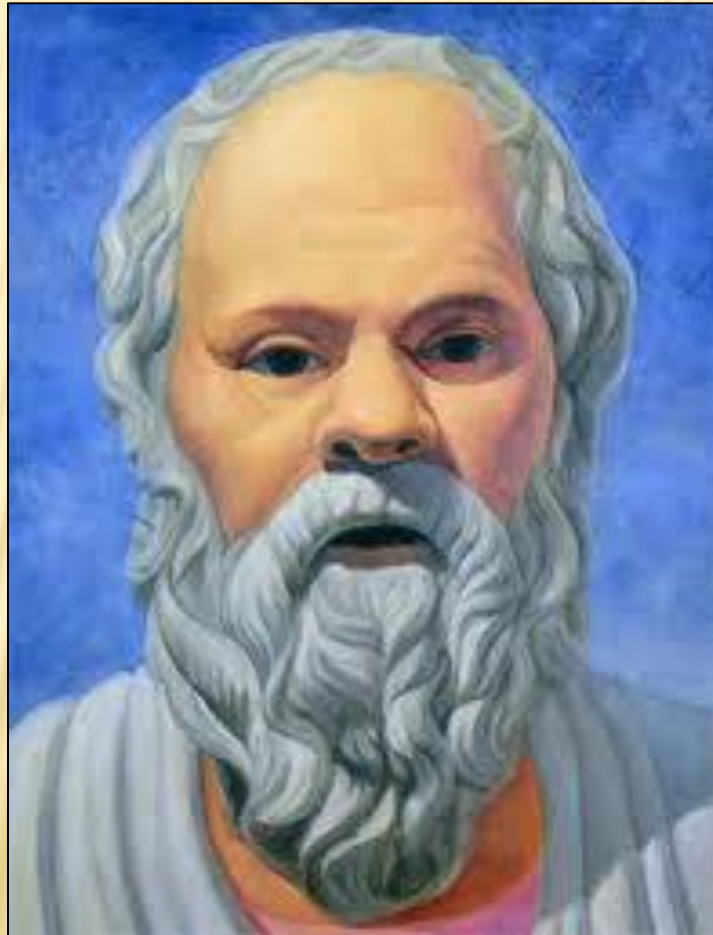


Socrates



Time Line for Socrates

- **470 BC**
- Is born in Athens, Greece, the son of Sophroniscus, a stonemason, and Phaenarete, a midwife.
- **470–400**
- Grows up during the “golden age” of Greece—his father, an intimate friend of the son of Aristides the Just, provides Socrates an acquaintanceship with the members of the Pericles circle.
- Serves with valor in the Peloponnesian War.
- Marries Xanthippe. They have seven or eight children.
- Is declared the wisest man by the Oracle at Delphi.
- Is put on trial for corrupting the minds of the youth of Athens.
- **399**
- Is found guilty and forced to drink hemlock.

Early Period

Works, usually referred to as Socratic dialogues, focus on ethics. Included in this period are *Apology*, *Crito*, *Charmides*, *Laches*, *Euthyphro*, *Euthydemus*, *Cratylus*, *Protagoras*, and *Gorgias*.

Middle Period

Works focus on theory of ideas and metaphysical doctrines. Included in this period are *Meno*, *Symposium*, *Phaedo*, *The Republic*, and *Phaedrus*.

Late Period

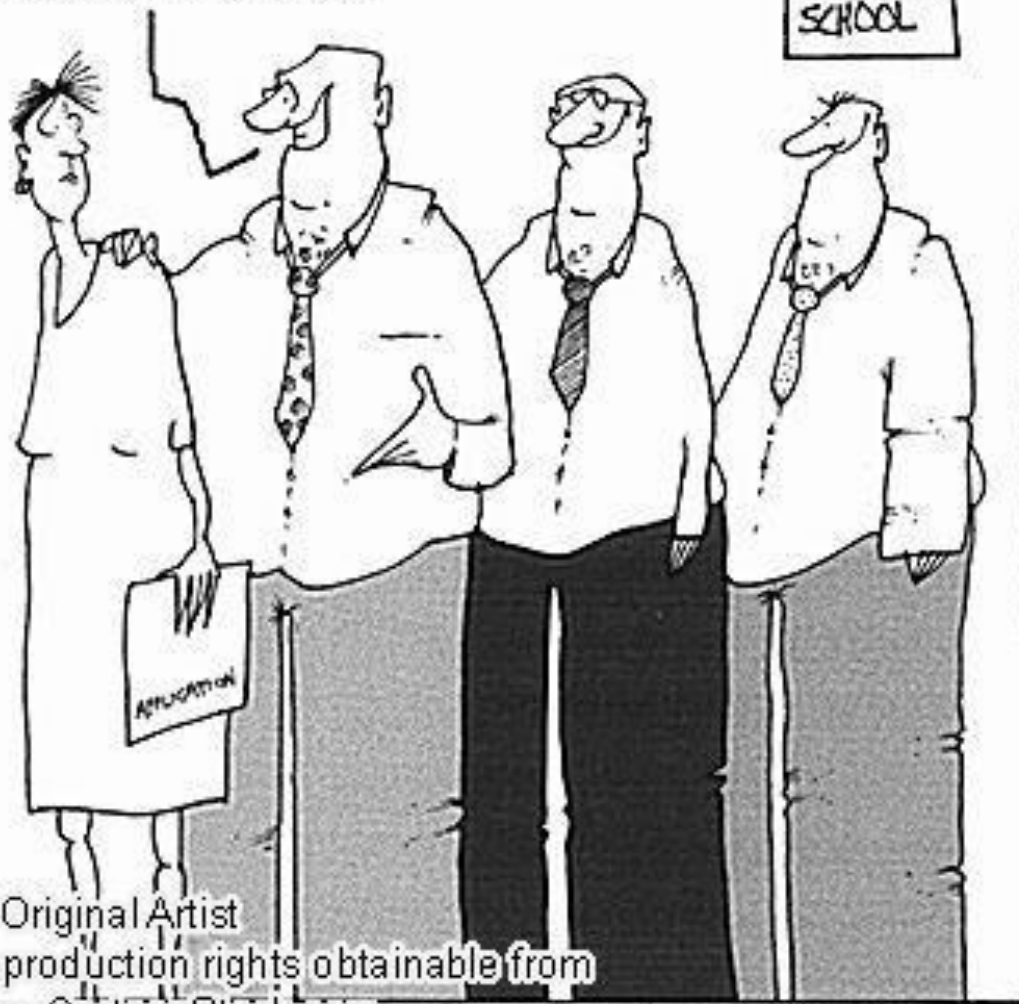
Works focus on a reconsideration of the middle period, most notably the theory of ideas. Included in this period are *Theaetetus*, *Parmenides*, *Sophist*, *Statesman*, *Philebus*, *Timaeus*, and *The Laws*.

Introduction

- In pre-Socratic Greece philosophers focused on a study of the natural world
- Tried to understand nature in terms of basic principles
- One could reason one's way to the truth, and by looking at natural effects one could deduce their causes
- Tried to reduce the world and nature to basic substances
- The Natural philosophers believed the educated person was one who used reason to understand nature
- Another group, the Sophists, believed that reason was flawed and was therefore unreliable
- The Sophists taught the young to win debates, regardless of the truth
- In the dialogue, *Apology*, Socrates was accused of being a naturalist and a Sophist

BUT MY DEAR GIRL WE AREN'T DISCRIMINATING
AGAINST YOU BECAUSE YOU'RE A WOMAN.,
WE'RE DISCRIMINATING AGAINST YOU
BECAUSE WE'RE MEN!

MEDICAL
SCHOOL



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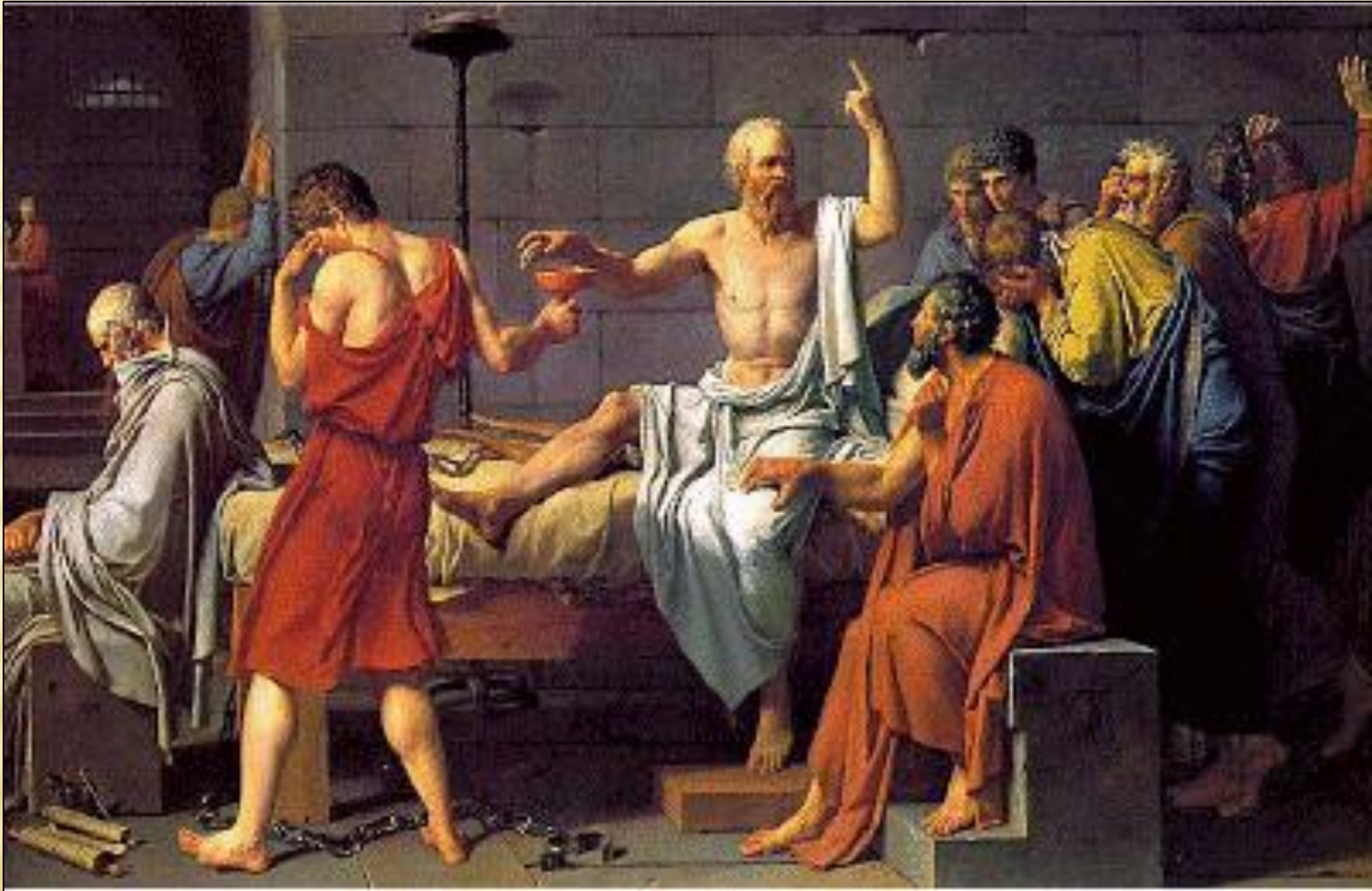
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THE SOPHISTRY

- Most of what we know about Socrates comes from three sources.
 - plays of Aristophanes
 - the dialogues of Xenophon and
 - Plato, his most devoted student
- Socrates did not read or write
- Was considered a gadfly who taunted the city-state
- In the dialogue Socrates was on trial for his life.
- He was charged with corrupting the morals of the youth of Athens.
- He was deceptively simple
- In debates he would ask questions and lead his opponents to the realization they they did not know what they were talking about
- The young people admired his skill and clarity of thought
- Knew the limits of his knowledge

- Socrates had no philosophy of his own
- He claimed that that true wisdom is the property of the gods
- He was only a humble human, of little value
- He believed that through debate one could arrive at the truth
- Socrates differs from the Sophists in that he believes there is an ultimate truth
- He differs from the Naturalists in that he questions everything and uses debate as a way of extracting internal thoughts about truth
- Truth can be found internally
- Your text contains one of the apologies, written by Plato

The Death of Socrates



Though he believed his trial was unjust he insisted on obeying civil law and accepted death.....

- Plato used his mentor as a model for his own philosophy
- The all knowing, all wise Socrates was a model for the Philosopher King in Plato's Republic



***Useful Socratic
quotes for
administrators***

***What do they
mean?***

***“The only true wisdom
is knowing you know
nothing.”***

***“Wonder is the
beginning of wisdom.”***

***“To find yourself,
think for yourself.”***

“Know thyself.”

***“I cannot teach
anybody anything. I
can only make them
think.”***

***“Death may be the
greatest of all human
blessings.”***

***“Every action has its
pleasures and its
price.”***

***“I am not an Athenian
nor a Greek, but a
citizen of the world.”***

***“Thou should eat to
live, not live to eat.”***

***“The unexamined life is
not worth living.”***

Socrates

Thanks to [goodreads.com](https://www.goodreads.com) for the quotes