Slide 1

History of
Ancient Greece
FALL 2024

MEETING 9

Athens in the Classical Period

- *Clouds*
- *History*
- *Athenian philosophy*
- *Athens walking tour*
- *The Undeclared War*

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Slide 2

Upcoming dates

- Monday, November 11   *Clouds* Essay due

- Monday, December 9   Position Paper due

- Sunday, November 3   Deadline for posting your weekly responses

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Slide 3

Five things today

1. *Clouds*
2. History
3. Athenian philosophy
4. Athens walking tour
5. The Undeclared War

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4

Quiz #7: Athens in the Classical Period

1. People who taught the skill of arguing a question from any or all positions, as part of the art of rhetoric, in classical Athens were called
   a. homoioi
   b. hypocausts
   c. gnostics
   d. sophists

2. All of the following are true of barriers protecting the crucial road between Athens and its port, the Piraeus, EXCEPT:
   a. They were built in the mid-5th century, during the Undeclared War
   b. The walls had no military importance and were put up to keep traders from trespassing on nearby farms
   c. They were constructed to prevent Athens from being besieged and cut off from supplies
   d. They were known as "the Long Walls"

3. The philosophical debate over *nomos* vs. *physis* arises from the difficulty classical Athenians had in answering the question:
   a. What is the source of morality and justice? How do we agree on what is right or wrong?
   b. Do humans have free will, or is their behavior determined by forces beyond their control?
   c. What happens after death? Is there rest, suffering, or nonexistence?
   d. Is a Pop-Tart a sandwich?

4. All of the following are true of the Parthenon temple EXCEPT:
   a. It is situated on the Acropolis
   b. It was a place for the entire Athenian populace to regularly gather together inside and worship Athena as a congregation
   c. The Athenian treasury was kept in the back
   d. It was named for, and meant to be the home of, Athena the Virgin (and her statue)

5. The agora was a place where
   a. merchants sold and traded goods
   b. citizens gathered for social, political, and religious events
   c. government buildings and meetings were located
   d. all of the above

EC. For today you read the rest of *Clouds*. What does Strepsiades do at the very end? What reasons does he give for doing it?
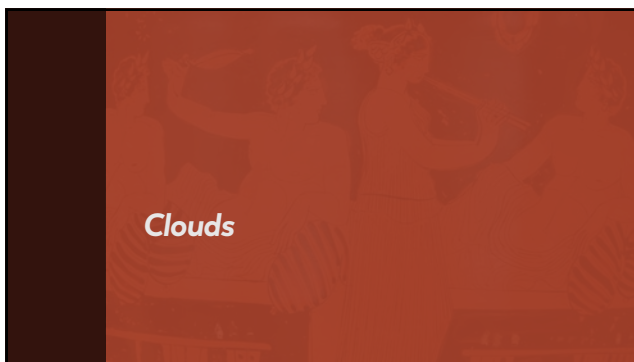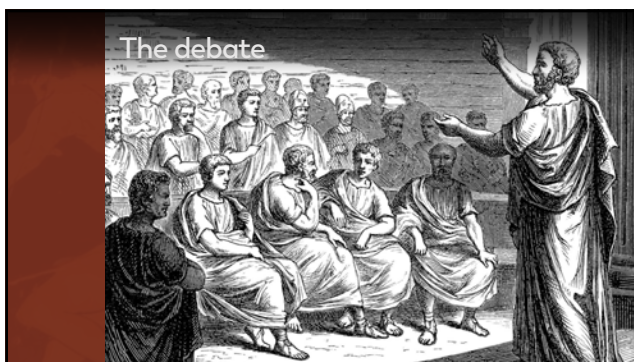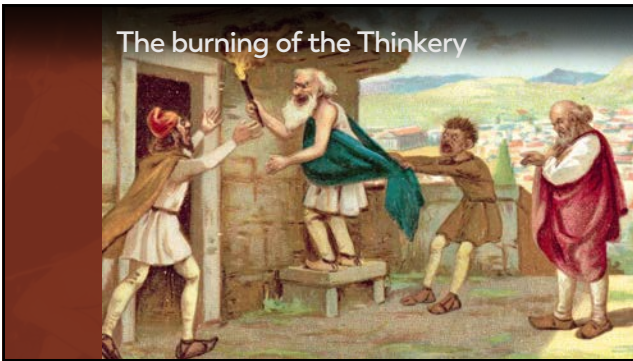
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Responses

6

Questions about whatever

7

Clouds

8

The debate

9

Pheidippides's attack

10

The burning of the Thinkery

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What is *Clouds* about?

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Nomos vs. physis

- *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

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Real Socrates
Believed in *physis:* Truth is inherent in nature and cannot be changed regardless of human or divine will
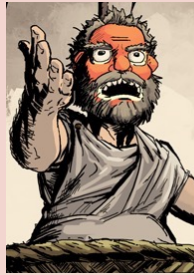
Sophists + Fake "Socrates" in *Clouds*
Believed in *nomos:* The truth is what people will believe
Taught the ability to argue regardless of morality

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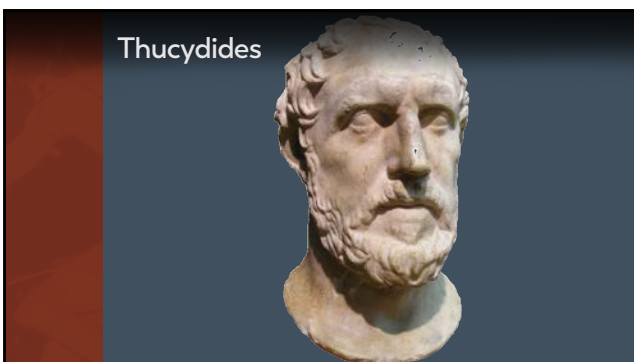
Athenian thinkers

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Herodotus

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Thucydides
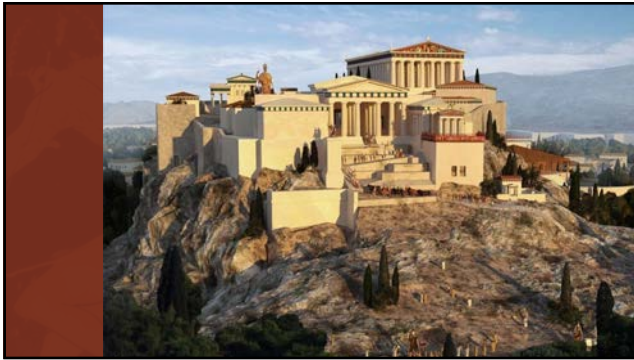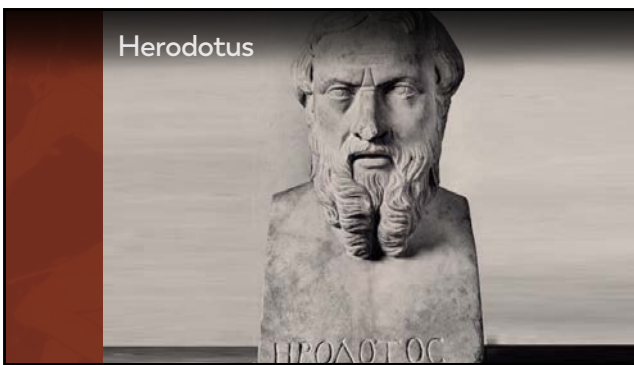
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Natural philosophy: chaos and cosmos

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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
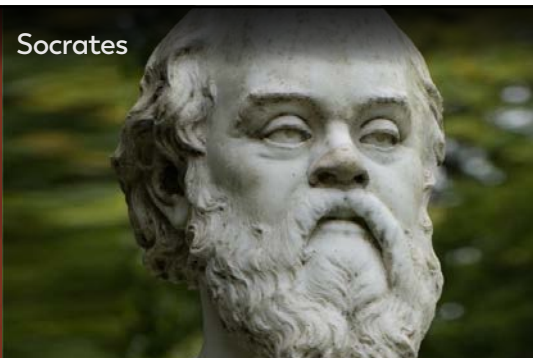
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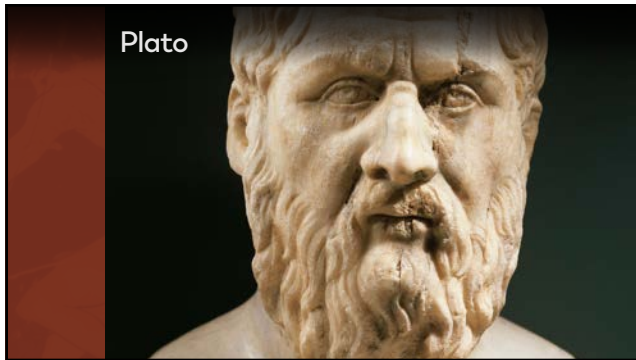
Pythagoras
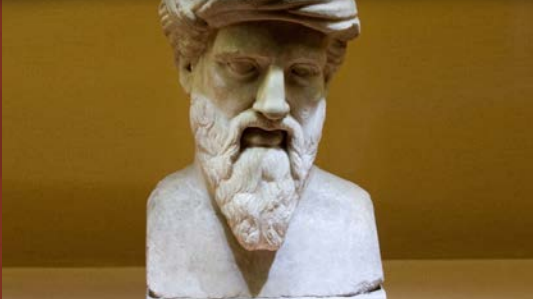
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Protagoras
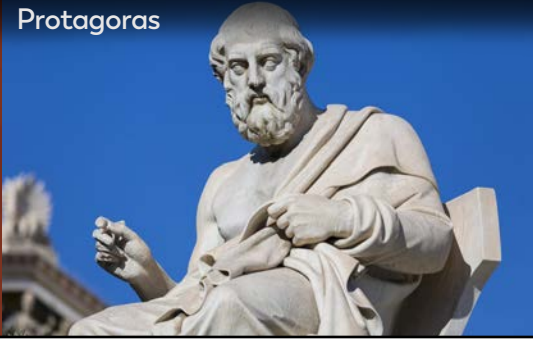
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Nomos vs. physis

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  - Is morality merely arbitrarily dictated by society?
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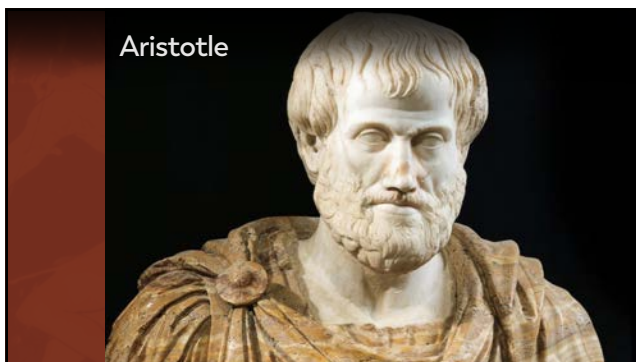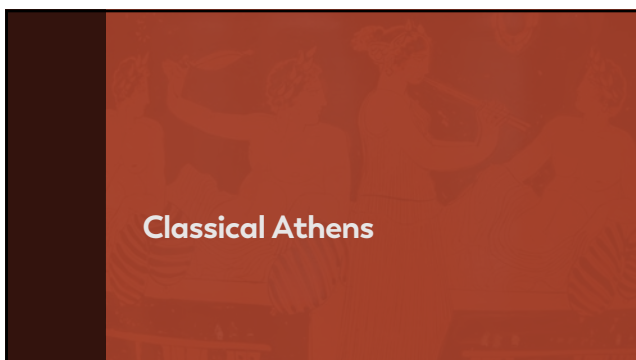
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Socrates
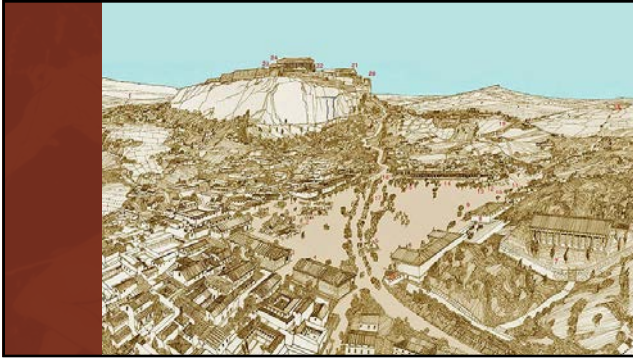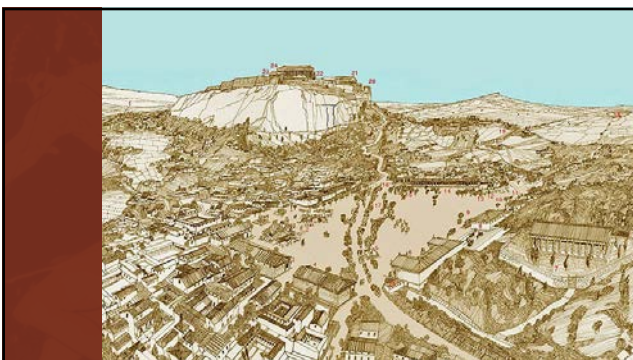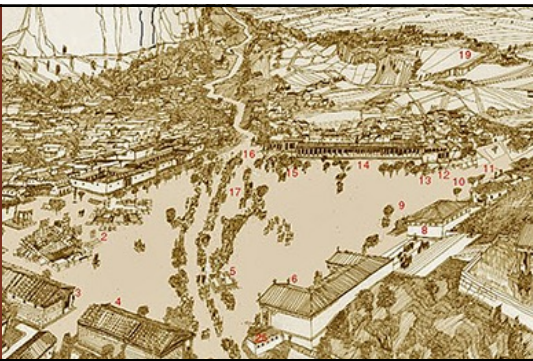
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Plato

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Aristotle

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Classical Athens

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Stoa

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30

Temple of Hephaestus

31

32

Pnyx

33

34

35

36

Propylaia

37

Statue of Athena Promachos

38

Temple of Athena Parthenos

Temple of Athena Nike

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Education

40

Athenian houses

41

Gynaeceum

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The Undeclared War

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Timeline: Peloponnesian Wars

Helot Rebellion
in Sparta

Peace of
Nicias

Treasury Moved from
Delos to Athens

Sicilian
Expedition

Athenian
Citizenship Law

Thirty
Tyrants

Undeclared
Peloponnesian
War

Thirty Years'
Peace

Peloponnesian
War

470   460   450   440   430   420   410   400
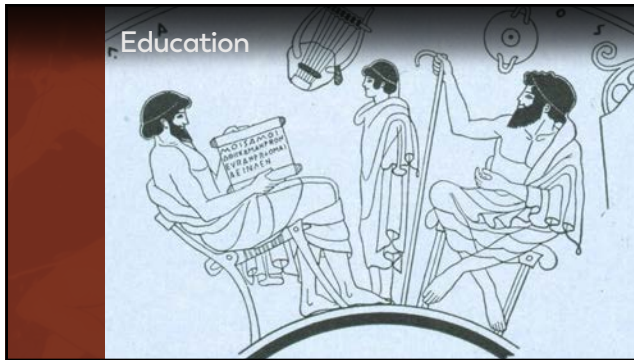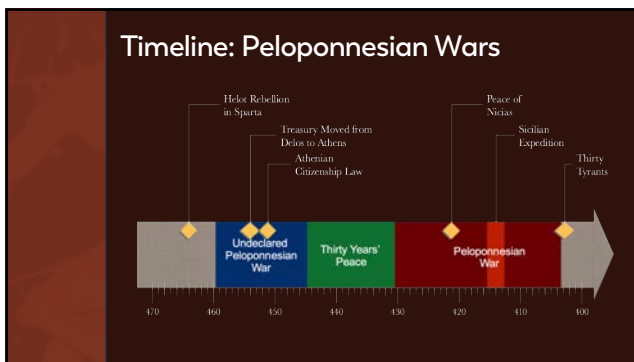
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The Undeclared War – Causes

- Naming of the war
  - Conflict between Delian League and Peloponnesian League
  - Undeclared — sporadic battles

- Trade rivalry
  - Two maritime commercial powers — Athens and Corinth

- Megara
  - Switches sides out of fear of Corinth
  - Hands Athenians an important port

- Helot rebellion
  - Earthquake leads to uprising
  - Helots relocated to Naupactos

- Corinth goes to war with Athens

- Athens builds the Long Walls

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Long Walls

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The Undeclared War
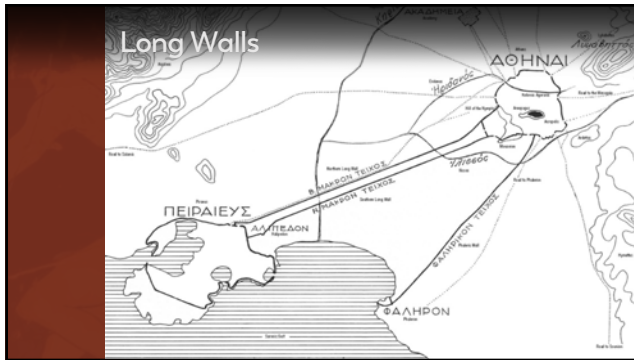
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The Thirty Years' Peace

- Neither side interferes with allies of the other

- Neutrals free to join either side

- Arbitration of disagreements

- No one can switch sides

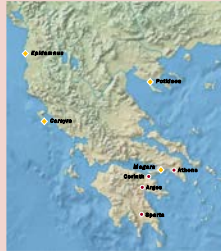- Sparta and Athens can use force within their alliances

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Athenian expansion – Magna Graecia

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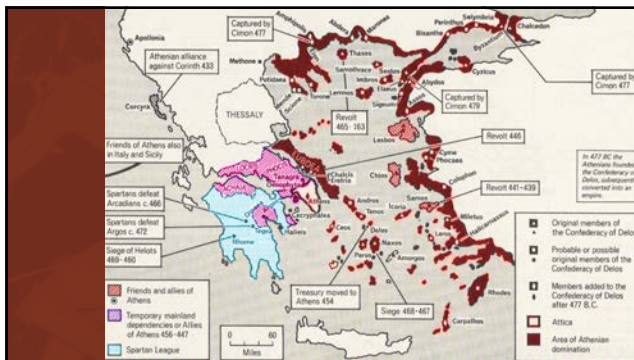Athenian expansion – Black Sea

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Breakdown of the Peace

- Epidamnus and Corcyra
- Potidaean Ultimatum
- Megaran Decrees

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