

Background

- 384-322 BC
- Plato's pupil
- disagreed with him a lot
- teacher of Alexander the Great
- people still follow him

interests:

- archetypes
- ideal thing
- science, geology, geography, philosophy, politics, anatomy, & astrology

Comparison of Plato and Aristotle

commons

- emphasis on reason, logic and thinking through philosophical issues
- all the Greek gods were irrelevant
- you could have an absolute good
- humans are living in a polis

differences

- What is real? Aristotle thinks what we see is real and Plato thought that the archetypes were real
 - Aristotle loved categories; about 10 of them
 - immortal soul that persists as an individual once dead
- Plato; Aristotle believed your soul just dissolved when dead

Metaphysics and Epistemology

metaphysics- most be some basic unit (atom)

epistemology- how we know things (learned categories)

matter and form

- for Plato the form was an ideal (chair example)
- for Aristotle is the matter can contain the future form (oak seed)
- for Aristotle form is not as crucial as the matter (willow)
- Aristotle believes there is some sort of force that sets everything else in motion

Causation

- causation potential is at the top of the hill; actual is at the bottom of the hill.
- 4 causes

1. material cause (marble)
2. efficient cause (being chiseled)
3. formal cause (form Aphrodite)
4. final cause (end result)

causation was one of the ways he was thinking through complicated philosophical equations

Cosmology

- started with the assumption of geocentric universe
- the sun and everything goes around us
- the earth was a globe and we are sitting on it
- tried to figure out how big was the globe
- he thought Earth was 2/3 less than it was
- What pushes things to go around the Earth?
 - the unmoved mover pushes the Earth around in a bunch of different ways
 - when someone saw an exploding star (nova) he thought something were wrong

Ethics

golden med

don't get carried off to an extreme of good or bad

virtue and happiness

- if you are great then pride is a virtue
- if you aren't great then pride is a vice you shouldn't be proud
- if you are great then you should act in moderation and do it well
- shouldn't hold a grudge
- being good and being happy went together
- friends that you actively contemplate with

Politics

Aristotle's republic said that there's democracy, monarchy and oligarchy

- oligarchy is whoever is already powerful end up being the rulers
- monarchy is ruled by the one king
- democracy is ruled by the people
- each one of these can be good depending on who's in charge
- ideal government in which you would have a monarch but not an absolute monarchy.
- you would have an assembly and other parts of the government
- influential as an ideal

Legacy

Aristotle became enormously influential because
people believed his ideas about the earth
also anatomy ideals were the norm (the pig's liver)
his scientific approach
his republic