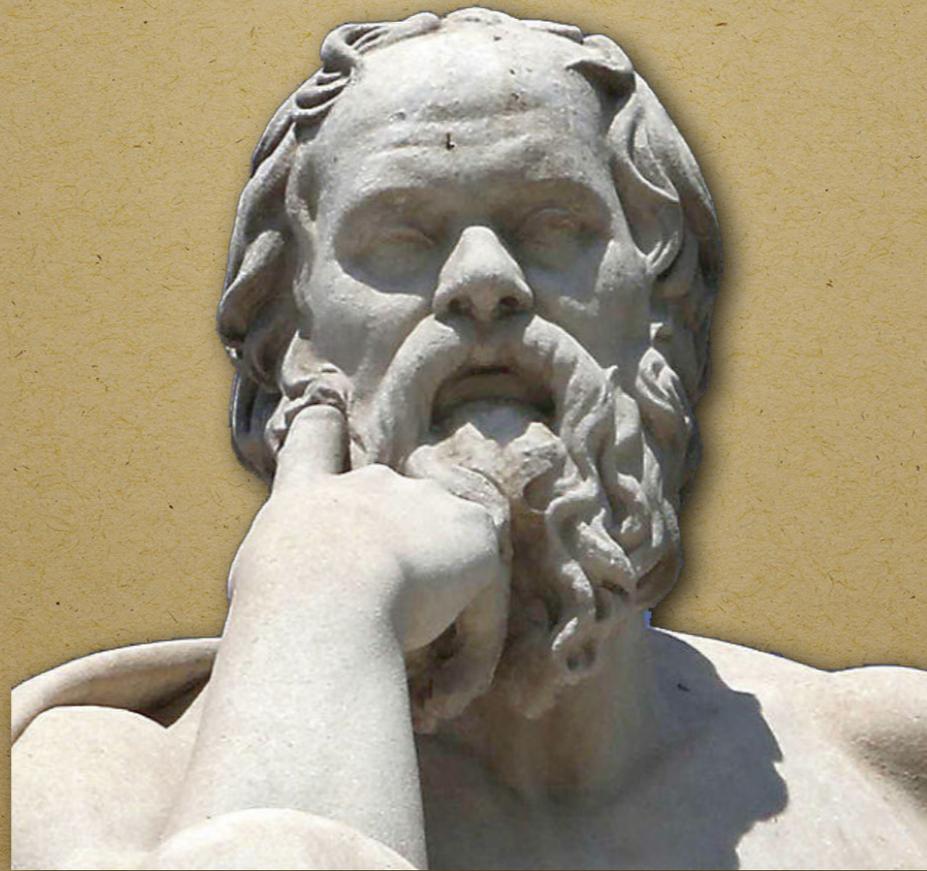


PHI 201 - Unit 2  
Sokrates



Sokrates on Trial

# Sokrates On Trial

## I. Historical Background to Sokrates (*part 1*):

### A. The Rise of the Athenian Empire -

1. The Persian Wars - 490-479 BCE
2. Perikles and the Athenian Democracy
3. The Rise of the Sophists

## II. Historical Background to Sokrates (*part 2*):

### A. The Peloponnesian War - 431-404 BCE

### B. Rule of the Thirty - 404-403 BCE

### C. Sokrates' Unfortunate Associations -

1. Kritias
2. Alkibides



# Sokrates On Trial

## II. The *Apologia* of Sokrates:

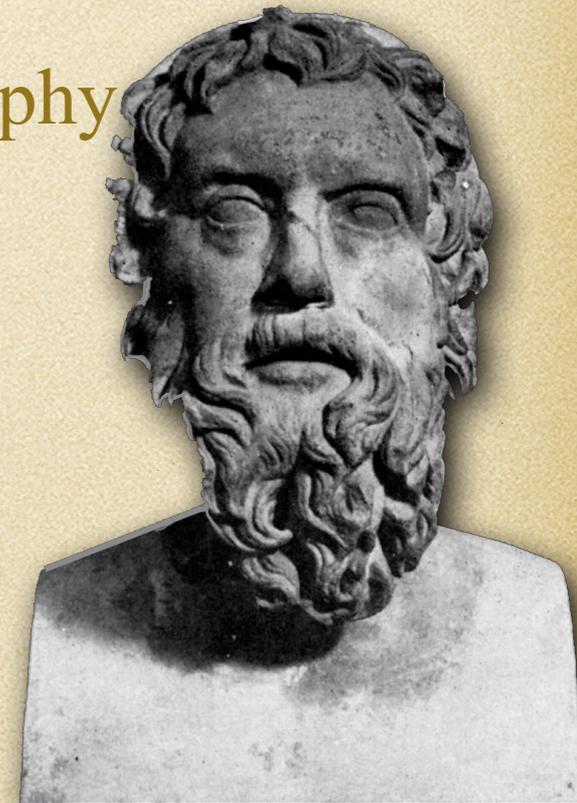
### A. The *Informal Charge* (*the bias against philosophers*)

#### 1. Aristophanes (*The Clouds*):

- a. **Investigation** of the physical world (*Natural Philosophy*)
- b. Intentional use of **bad arguments**
- c. **Teaches** others (*for money*) to do the same things

#### 2. Sokrates' Defense:

- a. No knowledge of, or interest in, Natural Philosophy
- b. **The Delphic Oracle**



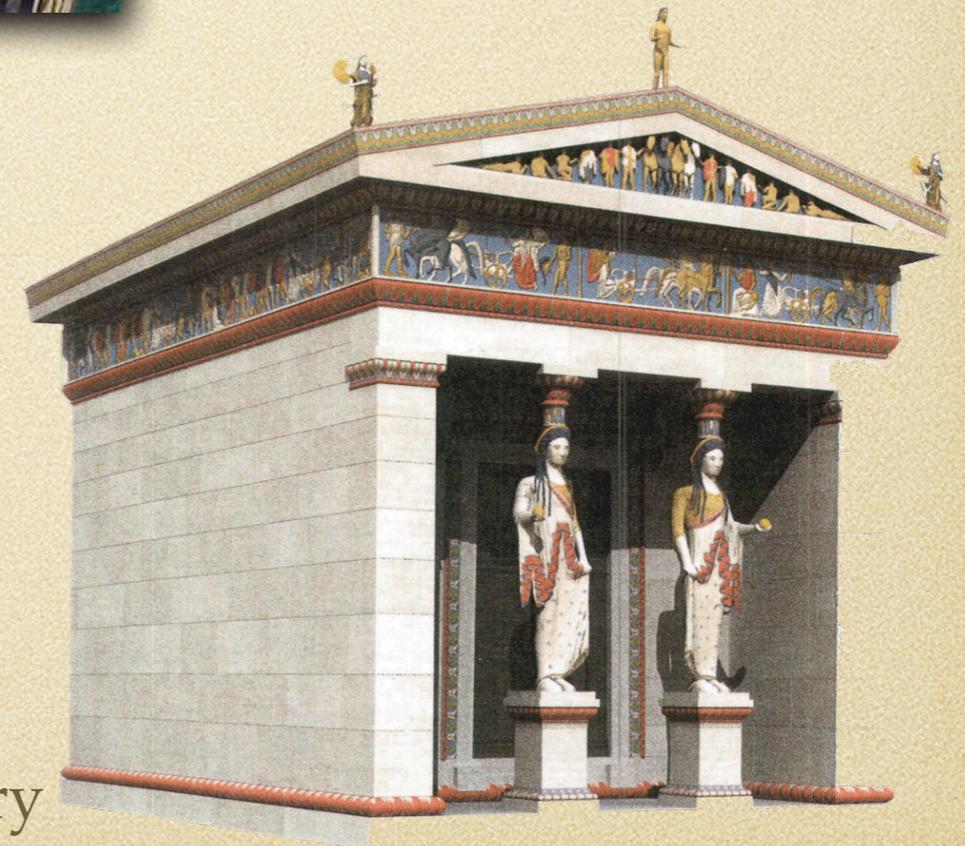
# Sokrates On Trial



The "Pythia"



Temple of Apollo



Siphnian Treasury

# Sokrates On Trial

## II. The *Apologia* of Sokrates:

### A. The ***Informal Charge*** (*the bias against philosophers*)

#### 1. Aristophanies (*The Clouds*):

- a. **Investigation** of the physical world (*Natural Philosophy*)
- b. Intentional use of **bad arguments**
- c. **Teaches** others (*for money*) to do the same things

#### 2. Sokrates' Defense:

- a. No knowledge of, or interest in, Natural Philosophy
- b. The **Delphic Oracle**
  - i. The Oracle says "no man is wiser than Sokrates"
  - ii. Sokrates believes he has no significant wisdom
  - iii. The god (*Apollo*) cannot lie

# Sokrates On Trial

## b. The **Delphic Oracle**

- i. The Oracle says “no man is wiser than Sokrates”
- ii. Sokrates believes he has no significant wisdom
- iii. The god (*Apollo*) cannot lie

## c. Sokrates **tests** the Oracle’s riddle -

- i. Politicians
- ii. Poets
- iii. Craftsman

The craftsmen *know* “many fine things,” but no one has the knowledge he’s looking for: ***techne*** versus ***episteme***.

**NOTE:** Sokrates’ method of argument - the ***elenchos*** (*ἔλεγχος* *cross-examination*)

# Sokrates On Trial

## B. The *Formal Charge* - Meletus

1. Intentionally corrupting the youth
2. Creating new gods (*atheism*)

## C. Sokrates cannot stop doing Philosophy

## D. Verdict - *Guilty*

**NOTE:** Meletus requests the death penalty.

## E. Sokrates must propose a counter penalty -

1. Maintenance at the Prytaneum
2. A fine of a *mina* (*increased to 30 by Sokrates' friends*)

## F. Sokrates accepts death -

1. His demon did not oppose the trial
2. Death can only be one of two things (*both are good*) -
  - a. **Annihilation** of the soul (*like a dreamless sleep*)
  - b. **Transmigration** of the soul (*going to Hades to cross-examine the great souls of the past*)

# Summary

- Sokrates is not interested in Natural Philosophy.
- Sokrates has no significant wisdom.
- Sokrates is not a teacher.
- Sokrates began his mission because of the Delphic Oracle.
- Sokrates distinguishes between two kinds of knowledge (*episteme* and *techne*)
- Sokrates discovers that no one has the *episteme* necessary to rule over others.
- Sokrates' mission to Athens is divinely inspired and consists of testing those who claim to have knowledge (*episteme*), and encouraging everyone to seek virtue (*live the examined life*) before wealth, honor, and power.
- Death should not be feared.