

**\*Monday, January 23: The Ancient World: Pre-Socratics, Plato and Aristotle.**

Karl Jaspers, a German existential philosopher, suggested the term “an axis of world history, as “the point in history which gave birth to everything which, since then, man has been able to be, the point most overwhelmingly fruitful in fashioning humanity....It would seem that this axis of history is to be found in the period around 500 B.C. in the spiritual process that occurred between 800-200 B.C.” (Karl Jaspers, *The Origin and Goal of History*, London, Routledge and Kegan Paul Ltd., 1953, p. 1). So we will begin right here.

Readings:

1. “The Pre-Socratic Philosophers, the Milesians”. Available online
2. “True Happiness,”: chapter 2 of *A Little History of Philosophy* by Nigel Warburton, New Haven, Ct., Yale University Press, 2012. Available online

**\*Monday, January 30: The Scientific Revolution and the Age of Reason: Galileo, Hobbes, Descartes, and Locke.**

Although Galileo is not considered a philosopher he surely instigated a whole new way of looking at the world. In a letter to Don Virginio Cesarini of 1623, Galileo writes: “Philosophy is written in this grand book, the universe, which stands continually open to our gaze. But the book cannot be understood unless one first learns to comprehend the language and read the letters in which it is composed. It is written in the language of mathematics, and its characters are triangles, circles, and other geometric figures without which it is humanly impossible to understand a single word of it....”

Reading: <http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2016/09/05/the-dream-of-enlightenment-by-anthony-gottlieb> “Are We Really So Modern”. Available Online

**\*Monday, February 6: Modern Philosophy: The Pillars: Hume, Rousseau, Kant and Mill. Four very different thinkers**

Reading: An interview with John Passmore on Hume – pg 146-149, available online **OR** Locke’s *Second Treatise*, available online

**\*Monday, February 13: The Contemporary World: Hegel, Marx, the Existentialists and Beyond.**

Reading: What is really real? <https://youtu.be/oYp5XuGYqqY> Donald Hoffman “Do We See Reality As It Is” VIDEO. 21 minutes