

19th July 2013

"The Ancients":- from Warburton: Socrates & Plato, Aristotle, Epicures, Stoics

This was an ambitious package, but we went through:-

- Socrates' campaign against the rhetoric* and moral relativism and his method of Socratic dialogue;
- Plato's justification of Socrates' search for meaning and on the immortality of the soul through his theory of forms;
- Aristotle's rejection of the separate existence of forms, but his incorporation of them into his theory of causation;
- Epicurus' campaign for the pleasure principle - but it's much easier if your pleasures are simple;
- Stoical self management and unemotional response to what fate throws at you.

There is a lot more to study here: I had taken the opportunity to re-read W.K.C. Guthrie's "The Greek Philosophers from Thales to Aristotle" (160 odd pages). Also, there is probably no philosopher easier to read than Plato: maybe look at a dialogue - perhaps the similes of the sun, the line and the cave from "The Republic" which illustrate the theory of forms?