Plato, *Euthyphro* and *Apology*

PHIL 102, Fall 2015, Hendricks

Athena looking over Plato, by Sebastian Bertrand, Wikimedia Commons, licensed CC BY 2.0: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Athena_looking_over_Plato.jpg

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Historical background

**Socrates:** c. 469-399 BCE
**Plato:** c. 428-347 BCE
**War Athens-Sparta:** 431-404 BCE
**Rule of 30 tyrants:** 404-403 BCE
**Trial and execution of Socrates:** 399 BCE

**Democracy in Athens**
- **Assembly of Citizens:**
  - Male, Athenian parents, not slaves, completed military training (page 2)
  - Met around 40 times annually, about 5000-8000 people each time
  - Anyone allowed to speak at assembly
  - Decided on laws & policies put forward by Council of 500

**Democracy in Athens**
- **Council of 500**
  - 19 generals
  - 9 Archons

**Democracy in Athens**
- **Peloponnesian War (Athens/Sparta):**
  - 431-404 BCE
  - Made up of anti-democrats; set up by Sparta
  - Exiled & killed democrats to take their property
  - Tried to get Socrates to arrest an innocent person (he refused)
  - Plato’s uncle and great-uncle were part of the 30 (the latter was their leader, & a former pupil of Socrates)

**Plato (c. 428-347 BCE)**
- From aristocratic, wealthy, & politically active family, but did not go into politics
  - Exiled by the rule of 30 tyrants and by the execution of his friends by the restored democracy
- Pupil of Socrates
- Set up school of Philosophy called “The Academy” after Socrates’ death

**Socrates (c. 469-399 BCE)**
- Wrote nothing, so far as we know
- Walked around Athens engaging people in discussions
- Tried & executed for impiety and corruption of the youth
- May not have been a fan of democracy
Socrates: c. 469-399 BCE

Plato: c. 428-347 BCE

War Athens-Sparta: 431-404 BCE

Rule of 30 tyrants: 404-403 BCE

Trial and execution of Socrates: 399 BCE
Democracy in Athens

Assembly of Citizens:

- Male, Athenian parents, not slaves, completed military training (age 20)
- Met around 40 times/yr, about 5000-6000 people each mtg
- Anyone allowed to speak at assembly
- Decided on laws & policies put forward by Council of 500

"Pnyx, Athens - Panorama" by Nikthestoned, via Wikimedia Commons. Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pnyx,_Athens_-_Panorama.jpg
Democracy in Athens

Assembly

Council of 500

10 generals

9 Archons
Democracy in Athens

People's courts

- All citizens over 30 can be jurors
- Jurors chosen by lot on day of trial
- Anywhere from 500-1500 jurors per trial

Things to note

- Significant equality in rule
- Speaking well in public very important—Sophists
Peloponnesian War (Athens/Sparta)

431-404 BCE

Marked up from Map of Greece during Peloponnesian War, 431 BC, from Wikimedia Commons, licensed CC BY-SA 3.0: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Map_Peloponnesian_War_431_BC-en.svg
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Rule of 30 tyrants

404-403 BCE

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Pupil of Socrates

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Plato Silanio Louvre, via Wikimedia Commons. Public domain.
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