

HISTORY OF WESTERN PHILOSOPHY

REFERENCE TIMELINE

ERA & PERIOD	KEY FIGURES	CORE THEMES & CONCEPTS
Ancient Greek 600 BCE - 300 BCE	Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Heraclitus	Virtue ethics, metaphysics, the Socratic method, the theory of forms, logic, and natural philosophy.
Hellenistic & Roman 300 BCE - 400 CE	Marcus Aurelius, Epicurus, Seneca, Plotinus	Stoicism, Epicureanism, Skepticism, Neoplatonism, and the pursuit of Ataraxia (tranquility).
Medieval 400 - 1400	Augustine, Aquinas, Anselm, Ockham	Scholasticism, synthesis of faith and reason, the existence of God, and problem of universals.
Renaissance / Early Modern 1400 - 1700	Descartes, Spinoza, Hobbes, Locke	Rationalism vs. Empiricism, Dualism, Social Contract theory, and the rise of the scientific method.
Enlightenment 1700 - 1800	Kant, Hume, Rousseau, Voltaire	Critique of pure reason, transcendental idealism, individual liberty, and secularism.
19th Century 1800 - 1900	Hegel, Nietzsche, Marx, Kierkegaard	German Idealism, Dialectical Materialism, Nihilism, and the foundations of Existentialism.

**ERA &
PERIOD**

KEY FIGURES

CORE THEMES & CONCEPTS

**20th Century /
Contemporary**
1900 - Present

Wittgenstein,
Heidegger, Sartre,
Foucault

Analytic philosophy, Phenomenology,
Existentialism, Post-structuralism, and
Philosophy of Language.