

Western Thought



Classical Greek Thinking

Socrates (470-399 BC)
Plato (427-347 BC)
Aristotle (384-322 BC)
Skeptics and Stoics

Biblical Christianity

Classical (Greek-Roman)
(4th C B.C. - 4th C A.D.)

Idea centered
Pagan gods
worldly realities
Logic and Mathematics
Plato - Ideals
Aristotle - Particulars
Ordering nature
Skepticism

Medieval Thought: Theism (4th - 17th Centuries)

Augustine (354-430)

Anselm (1033-1109)

Aquinas (1224-1274)



Medieval
(4th B.C. - 16th C A.D.)

God centered (Theism)
Personal-All powerful God
Heavenly realities
Revelation-Faith-Reason
Little interest in nature
Scholasticism
Duty to God - God's ethics
Hope in Salvation

Renaissance --

Reformation

(14th -15th Century) (16th Century)

Francis Bacon (1561-1626)

Enlightenment - Modernism

(17th Century - Present)

Rene Descartes (1596-1650)
John Locke (1632-1704)
Isaac Newton (1643-1727)
Baruch Spinoza (1637-77)
Jean Jacques Rousseau (1712-78)



Modern

(17th C - Present)

Man centered (humanism)
Deism- naturalism - secularism
Objective ordered realities
Empirical (verifiable) truth
Rationalism - scientific method
Tame and Control nature
Social and scientific progress
Social ethics - autonomy
Optimism

Revolutions

David Hume (1711-76)
Immanuel Kant (1724-1804)

Charles Darwin (1809-82)

Julian Huxley (1887-1975)
Alfred North Whitehead (1861-1947)

Georg Hegel (1770-1831)- dialectic
Soren Kierkegaard (1813-55)- Existentialism

Postmodernism

(20th Century - Present)

Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900)
Jean Paul Sartre (1905-80)
Albert Camus (1914-1960)
Martin Heidegger (1889-1976)
Karl Jaspers (1883-1969)
Ludwig Wittgenstein (1889-1951)
Jacques Derrida



Postmodernism

(20th C - Present)

Self centered Communal
(G)od - unknowable, wholly other
Subjective non-ordered realities
No absolute truth - relativism
Deconstructionism / Revisionism
Emotions and intuition
Participate in nature - diversify
Relational truths - Mysticism
Existential - situational ethics
Pessimism - nihilism



Logical Positivism
Reductionism
Structuralism
Determinism