Classical Greece - High Culture

Greek Religion
- Complex set of gods and goddesses
  o Regulated different aspects of human life
  o Patron gods presiding over different activities
    ▪ Ex. Metalworking
- Religious ceremonies
  o Given importance in Greek society on grand scale
    ▪ Regular ceremonies for health and harvest
  o Little solace for everyday people
    ▪ Stories of origins but not ethical behavior
- Mythology
  o Stories of gods and goddesses
  o Served as inquiry of human nature

Greek Philosophy
- Tended to focus on speculations on natures‘ order
  o Ex. Planetary movement
- Advancements in Geometry

Aristotle
- Stressed importance of moderation and balance
- Interested in collection biological data

Stoics
- Inner Moral Independence
  o Strict discipline of the body and personal bravery

Socrates
- Encouraged the questioning of conventional wisdom
  o Basis: Human duty is improvement of the soul
- Idea of Socratic questioning becomes recurrent theme in classical Greece

Plato
- Student of Socrates
- Stressed three perfect forms
  o Good
  o True
  o Beautiful
- Celebrated of human ability to think
- Similar to Confucius
  o Exception – Skepticism
Greek Art
Architecture
- Temples
- Governmental buildings
- Square or rectangular shape
- Columns
- Pioneered Doric, Ionic, Corinthian (Classical) Architectural style
Ceramics
Statues
- Greek Heroes and Gods
- Athletes
Theater/Literature
- Plays and stories conveying glory of the gods
- Dramas
  - Deep insight into “Human Condition”
- Poetry
- Comedies
- Tragedy
Sophocles – Dramatist
Homer – Epic Tradition
Herodotus – Father of History
Euripides – Tragedian