September 10, 2021
MSE 2101 topics

• ~400 B.C.: Plato, Aristotle and the Geocentric model

• ~260 B.C.: Aristarchus, “If Sun is much larger than Earth, why would it revolve around it?”

• ~150 A.D.: Ptolemy and the Ptolemaic model: “How do we explain the retrograde motion of the planets?”

• Aristarchus and the problem of parallaxes

• Anaximander's apeiron

• The great debate: Atomists (Democritus) vs. Aristotelians
  - Epicurus: “there are infinite worlds both like and unlike this world of ours … we must believe that in all worlds there are living creatures and plants and other things we see in this world.”
  - Aristotle: “the world must be unique … there cannot be several worlds.”

• 330 B.C.: Alexander the Great; the Alexandria library

• 391 A.D.: the decree of Pope Theophilus; dark ages

• Middle ages of the Islamic world; the rise of Baghdad

• 1250: St. Thomas Aquinas – Aristotle into Christian theology