

September 2, 2015
MSE 2101 topics

- 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
- 1453: the fall of Constantinople (Istanbul)
- 1543: Copernican revolution
 - Alphonso X: *“If I had been present at the creation, I would have recommended a simpler design for the Universe.”*
 - a quest for a better way to predict planetary locations
 - Copernicus' work still inaccurate in predicting; why?