

Critical Theory Since Plato

Critical Theory Since Plato Critical Theory Since Plato Literary Criticism and Theory Literary Criticism from Plato to the Present Literature Against Philosophy, Plato to Derrida Seeming and Being in Plato's Rhetorical Theory The Offense of Poetry Literary Criticism and Theory Art and Truth after Plato The Theory of Criticism from Plato to the Present Plato and the Divided Self A History of Literary Criticism Plato's Introduction of Forms Recollection and Experience Plato's Theory of Knowledge Plato As Critical Theorist Plato's Essentialism Literary Theory From Plato To Barthes Plato's Theory of Ideas Greek Aesthetic Theory (RLE: Plato) Plato's Theory of Art Poetics before Plato The Development of Plato's Political Theory On Ideas Plato on Democracy Plato's Theory of Education Poetic Justice Literary Criticism from Plato to Postmodernism Narratology and Interpretation Plato Freud Plato and the Foundations of Metaphysics Literary criticism Plato's Euthyphro and the Earlier Theory of Forms The Theory of Criticism Introducing Plato The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism Plato's Theory of Knowledge (Routledge Revivals) Plato's 'Republic': An Introduction The Allegory of the Cave Plato Critical Assessments

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Plato's Theory of Knowledge (Routledge Revivals) Sep 30 2019 First published in 1962, this book provides a systematic account of the development of Plato's theory of knowledge. Beginning with a consideration of the Socratic and other influences which determined the form in which the problem of knowledge first presented itself to Plato, the author then works through the dialogues from the Meno to the Laws and examines in detail Plato's progressive attempts to solve the problem.

A History of Literary Criticism Nov 24 2021 This comprehensive guide

to the history of literary criticism from antiquity to the present day provides an authoritative overview of the major movements, figures, and texts of literary criticism, as well as surveying their cultural, historical, and philosophical contexts. Supplies the cultural, historical and philosophical background to the literary criticism of each era Enables students to see the development of literary criticism in context Organised chronologically, from classical literary criticism through to deconstruction Considers a wide range of thinkers and events from the French Revolution to Freud's views on civilization Can be used alongside any anthology of literary criticism or as a coherent stand-alone introduction

Greek Aesthetic Theory (RLE: Plato) Mar 17 2021 This book provides a clear and informed account of aesthetic and callistic concepts as they occur in the works of Plato and Aristotle. The author illustrates their ideas on art and beauty by close reference to their texts and finds a profound similarity which unites them, revealing many of their differences to be complementary aspects of an essentially similar viewpoint. He also shows how Greek notions of art and beauty are not merely primitive steps in the advance to modern ideas but have a direct relevance to modern critical controversies.

Critical Theory Since Plato Nov 05 2022 *CRITICAL THEORY SINCE PLATO* is a chronologically-arranged anthology that presents a broad survey of the history and development of literary criticism and theory in Western culture. Written by two well-known scholars in the field of literary study, this well-respected text puts an emphasis on the individual contributors to the development of literary criticism, from Plato and Aristotle to the present.

Literary criticism Mar 05 2020 Literature Review from the year 2013 in the subject Literature - Basics, grade: BA, Mohamed I University, course: english studies, language: English, abstract: Despite all its shortcomings, literary criticism still supplies both the writer and the reader with the tools for self-evaluation and self-improvement. It comes in various forms and for different aims. The evolution of literary criticism passes through different schools and approaches as one school opposes the other. Some of the major approaches that stood against each other based on different assumptions, had been started with the historical theory that was hugely criticised specially by the mid-twentieth century tendencies which knew the emergence of the New criticism developed by Anglo-American writers, and later the growth of reader-response criticism followed indirectly by the structuralist theories.

Plato's Euthyphro and the Earlier Theory of Forms Feb 02 2020 Plato's *Euthyphro* is important because it gives an excellent example of Socratic dialogue in operation and of the connection of that dialectic with Plato's earlier theory of Forms. Professor Allen's edition of the dialogue provides a translation with interspersed commentary, aimed

both at helping the reader who does not have Greek and also elucidating the discussion of the earlier Theory of Forms which follows. The author argues that there is a theory of Forms in the *Euthyphro* and in other early Platonic dialogues and that this theory is the foundation of Socratic dialogue. However, he maintains that the theory in the early dialogues is a realist theory of universals and this theory is not to be identified with the theory of Forms found in the *Phaedo*, *Republic*, and other middle dialogues, since it differs on the issues of ontological status.

Plato and the Foundations of Metaphysics Apr 05 2020 This is a book about the relationship of the two traditions of Platonic interpretation -- the indirect and the direct traditions, the written dialogues and the unwritten doctrines. Kramer, who is the foremost proponent of the Tübingen School of interpretation, presents the unwritten doctrines as the crown of Plato's system and the key revealing it. Kramer unfolds the philosophical significance of the unwritten doctrines in their fullness. He demonstrates the hermeneutic fruitfulness of the unwritten doctrines when applied to the dialogues. He shows that the doctrines are a revival of the presocratic theory renovated and brought to a new plane through Socrates. In this way, Plato emerges as the creator of classical metaphysics. In the Third Part, Kramer compares the structure of Platonism, as construed by the Tübingen School, with current philosophical structures such as analytic philosophy, Hegel, phenomenology, and Heidegger. Of the five appendices, the most important presents English translations of the ancient testimonies on the unwritten doctrines. These include the "self-testimonies of Plato." There is also a bibliography on the problem of the unwritten doctrines.

Literary Criticism and Theory Mar 29 2022 "This incredibly useful volume offers an introduction to the history of literary criticism and theory from classical antiquity to the present. It is almost impossible to read or study literature without acknowledging its relationship to criticism and this guide shows how the two have been inextricable since Plato. Introducing theory and criticism through the texts themselves, Pelagia Goulimari examines: - A variety of key thinkers from Plato and Aristotle through to Foucault and Derrida - Topics and themes in the history of literary criticism such as mimesis and creation, inspiration, the emotions, reason, aesthetic, history, morality, ethics, culture and discourse - The main genres and movements in the history of literature including the epic, tragedy, comedy, romanticism, realism, modernism and postmodernism - Cross-historical connections between theories and theorists and the dissemination, appropriation and creative misunderstanding of concepts, ideas and arguments. With handy features such as a glossary, annotated further reading, descriptive text boxes and instructive marginalia this book is the ideal introduction to anyone approaching

theory and criticism for the first time"--

The Theory of Criticism from Plato to the Present Jan 27 2022 This book is divided into five parts: representation; subjectivity; form, structure and system; history and society; morality, class and ideology. Each part contains several thematic sections in which extracts from different writers and periods are juxtaposed. The study of literary theory has tended to concentrate on very recent developments. This volume, however, establishes both a sense of the continuities from Plato to the present day as well as the discontinuities. These are presented through comparisons and contrasts across the entire field of critical history.

Poetic Justice Aug 10 2020 When Plato wrote his dialogues, written texts were disseminated primarily by performance and oral recitation. Literacy, however, was spreading, and Frank is the first to point out that the dialogues offer two distinct ways of learning to read. One method treats learning to read as being led to true beliefs about letters and syllables by an authoritative teacher. The other method, recommended by Socrates, focuses on learning to read by trial and error, and on the opinions learners come to have based on their own fallible experiences. In all the dialogues in which these methods appear, learning to read is likened to coming to know, and the significant differences between the two methods are at the center of Frank's argument. When learning to read is understood as a practice of assimilating true beliefs by an authoritative teacher, it reflects the dominant scholarly account of Plato's philosophy as authoritative knowledge and of Plato's politics as, if not authoritarian, then at least anti-democratic. Rulers should have such authoritative knowledge and be philosopher-kings. However, learning to read or coming to know by way of Socrates' method, leads to quite a different set of conclusions. Professor Frank resists the claim that Plato's dialogues seek to endorse or enforce a hierarchy of knowledge and politics. Instead, she argues that they offer a philosophical education in self-authorization by representing and enacting challenges to all claims to expert authority, including those of philosophy.

Plato's Theory of Ideas Apr 17 2021

Plato's Introduction of Forms Oct 24 2021 Scholars of Plato are divided between those who emphasize the literature of the dialogues and those who emphasize the argument of the dialogues, and between those who see a development in the thought of the dialogues and those who do not. In this important book Russell Dancy focuses on the arguments and defends a developmental picture. He explains the Theory of Forms of the *Phaedo* and *Symposium* as an outgrowth of the quest for definitions canvassed in the Socratic dialogues, by constructing a Theory of Definition for the Socratic dialogues based on the refutations of definitions in those dialogues, and showing how that theory is mirrored in the Theory of Forms. His discussion, notable for

both its clarity and its meticulous scholarship, ranges in detail over a number of Plato's early and middle dialogues, and will be of interest to readers in Plato studies and in ancient philosophy more generally.

Art and Truth after Plato Feb 25 2022 Despite its foundational role in the history of philosophy, Plato's famous argument that art does not have access to truth or knowledge is now rarely examined, in part because recent philosophers have assumed that Plato's challenge was resolved long ago. In *Art and Truth after Plato*, Tom Rockmore argues that Plato has in fact never been satisfactorily answered—and to demonstrate that, he offers a comprehensive account of Plato's influence through nearly the whole history of Western aesthetics. Rockmore offers a cogent reading of the post-Platonic aesthetic tradition as a series of responses to Plato's position, examining a stunning diversity of thinkers and ideas. He visits Aristotle's *Poetics*, the medieval Christians, Kant's *Critique of Judgment*, Hegel's phenomenology, Marxism, social realism, Heidegger, and many other works and thinkers, ending with a powerful synthesis that lands on four central aesthetic arguments that philosophers have debated. More than a mere history of aesthetics, *Art and Truth after Plato* presents a fresh look at an ancient question, bringing it into contemporary relief.

Poetics before Plato Jan 15 2021 Combining literary and philosophical analysis, this study defends an utterly innovative reading of the early history of poetics. It is the first to argue that there is a distinctively Socratic view of poetry and the first to connect the Socratic view of poetry with earlier literary tradition. Literary theory is usually said to begin with Plato's famous critique of poetry in the *Republic*. Grace Ledbetter challenges this entrenched assumption by arguing that Plato's earlier dialogues *Ion*, *Protagoras*, and *Apology* introduce a distinctively Socratic theory of poetry that responds polemically to traditional poets as rival theorists. Ledbetter tracks the sources of this Socratic response by introducing separate readings of the poetics implicit in the poetry of Homer, Hesiod, and Pindar. Examining these poets' theories from a new angle that uncovers their literary, rhetorical, and political aims, she demonstrates their decisive influence on Socratic thinking about poetry. The Socratic poetics Ledbetter elucidates focuses not on censorship, but on the interpretation of poetry as a source of moral wisdom. This philosophical approach to interpreting poetry stands at odds with the poets' own theories—and with the Sophists' treatment of poetry. Unlike the *Republic's* focus on exposing and banishing poetry's irrational and unavoidably corrupting influence, Socrates' theory includes poetry as subject matter for philosophical inquiry within an examined life. Reaching back into what has too long been considered literary theory's prehistory, Ledbetter advances arguments that will

redefine how classicists, philosophers, and literary theorists think about Plato's poetics.

The Development of Plato's Political Theory Dec 14 2020 Since its publication twenty years ago, the first edition of this work has been the closest thing to a standard book on Plato's political theory. Like the first edition, this edition of *The Development of Plato's Political Theory* provides a clear, scholarly account of Plato's political theory in the context of the social and political events of his time, and draws connections between the development of his political theory and other aspects of his philosophy, especially his moral psychology. Special attention is paid to the political nature of Plato's political theory, to how his lifelong concern with questions of moral and political reform evolved along with other aspects of his theory, and to both Socrates' and his own efforts to reform actual cities. This second edition has been thoroughly revised to take into account scholarly developments during the last twenty years. Major changes from the first edition include reworking central aspects of chapters on the *Statesman* and *Laws* and detailed discussion of questions of interpretation, how Plato's dialogues should be read. Among other subjects receiving increased attention are Plato's alleged totalitarianism and racism and the place of the nocturnal council in the political theory of the *Laws*.

Literature Against Philosophy, Plato to Derrida Jul 01 2022 This timely book argues that the institutionalisation of literary theory, particularly within American and British academic circles, has led to a sterility of thought which ignores the special character of literary art. Mark Edmundson traces the origins of this tendency to the ancient quarrel between philosophy and poetry, in which Plato took the side of philosophy; and he shows how the work of modern theorists - Foucault, Derrida, de Man and Bloom - exhibits similar drives to subsume poetic art into some 'higher' kind of thought. Challenging and controversial, this book should be read by all teachers of literature and of theory, and by anyone concerned about the future of institutionalised literary studies.

Plato's Theory of Art Feb 13 2021 First published in 2000. Routledge is an imprint of Taylor & Francis, an informa company.

Literary Criticism from Plato to the Present Aug 02 2022 *Literary Criticism from Plato to the Present* provides a concise and authoritative overview of the development of Western literary criticism and theory from the Classical period to the present day An indispensable and intellectually stimulating introduction to the history of literary criticism and theory Introduces the major movements, figures, and texts of literary criticism Provides historical context and shows the interconnections between various theories An ideal text for all students of literature and criticism

Introducing Plato Dec 02 2019 *Introducing Plato* begins by explaining

how philosophers like Socrates and Pythagoras influenced Plato's thought. It provides a clear account of Plato's puzzling theory of knowledge, and explains how this theory then directed his provocative views on politics, ethics and individual liberty.

The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism Oct 31 2019 The gold standard anthology for anyone who wants to understand the development and current state of literary theory. Offering 191 pieces by 157 authors, *The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism, Third Edition*, is more comprehensive and more varied in its selection than any other anthology. Forty-eight NEW selections—concentrated mostly on the twentieth and twenty-first centuries—make the book not only the best overview of the history of theory, but also a remarkably up-to-date portrait of the state of theory today.

Literary Criticism and Theory Sep 03 2022 This incredibly useful volume offers an introduction to the history of literary criticism and theory from ancient Greece to the present. Grounded in the close reading of landmark theoretical texts, while seeking to encourage the reader's critical response, Pelagia Goulimari examines: major thinkers and critics from Plato and Aristotle to Foucault, Derrida, Kristeva, Said and Butler; key concepts, themes and schools in the history of literary theory: mimesis, inspiration, reason and emotion, the self, the relation of literature to history, society, culture and ethics, feminism, poststructuralism, postcolonialism, queer theory; genres and movements in literary history: epic, tragedy, comedy, the novel; Romanticism, realism, modernism and postmodernism. Historical connections between theorists and theories are traced and the book is generously cross-referenced. With useful features such as key-point conclusions, further reading sections, descriptive text boxes, detailed headings, and with a comprehensive index, this book is the ideal introduction to anyone approaching literary theory for the first time or unfamiliar with the scope of its history.

The Theory of Criticism Jan 03 2020 This book is divided into five parts and covers: representation; subjectivity; form, structure and system; history and society; morality, class and ideology. Each part contains several thematic sections in which extracts from different writers and periods are juxtaposed. The study of literary theory has tended to concentrate on very recent developments. This volume, however, establishes both a sense of the continuities from Plato to the present day as well as the discontinuities. These are presented through comparisons and contrasts across the entire field of critical history.

Critical Theory Since Plato Oct 04 2022 This outstanding anthology traces major critical statements from classic theorists like Plato to the contemporary. This standard historical textbook in the field focuses on important individual thinkers, and not particular schools of thought or isms. Current selections bring the anthology into

contemporary times and show students how critical theory has evolved and progressed over time.

Plato on Democracy Oct 12 2020 Revising his 1996 doctoral dissertation for the University of Warwick, though not departing radically from his original contention, Samaras argues that Plato's political thinking develops along a continuous line. He shows how some fundamental principles inform his thinking from beginning to end, and no abrupt breaks occur from one dialogue to the next or within any dialogue, but that the continuity does not mean his political thought remains essentially unchanged. Annotation copyrighted by Book News, Inc., Portland, OR

Literary Criticism from Plato to Postmodernism Jul 09 2020 This book offers a history of literary criticism from Plato to the present, arguing that this history can best be seen as a dialogue among three traditions - the Platonic, Neoplatonic, and the humanistic, originated by Aristotle. There are many histories of literary criticism, but this is the first to clarify our understanding of the many seemingly incommensurable approaches employed over the centuries by reference to the three traditions. Making its case by careful analyses of individual critics, the book argues for the relevance of the humanistic tradition in the twenty-first century and beyond.

The Offense of Poetry Apr 29 2022 There is something offensive and scandalous about poetry, judging by the number of attacks on it and defenses of it written over the centuries. Poetry, Hazard Adams argues, exists to offend - not through its subject matter but through the challenges it presents to the prevailing view of what language is for. Poetry's main cultural value is its offensiveness; it should be defended as offensive. Adams specifies four poetic offenses - gesture, drama, fiction, and trope - and devotes a chapter to each, ranging across the landscape of traditional literary criticism and exploring the various attitudes toward poetry, including both attacks and defenses, offered by writers from Plato and Aristotle to Sidney, Vico, Blake, Yeats, and Seamus Heaney, among others. "Criticism," Adams writes, "needs renewal in every age to free poetry from the prejudices of that age and the unintended prejudices of even the best critics of the past, to free poetry to perform its provocative, antithetical cultural role." Poetry achieves its cultural value by opposing the binary oppositions - form and content, fact and fiction, reason and emotion - that structure and polarize most understandings of literature and of life. Adams takes a position antithetical to the extremes of both abstract formalism and the politicization of literary content. He concludes with an appreciation of what he calls the double offense of "great bad poetry," poetry so exceptionally bad that it transcends its shortcomings and leads to gaiety. He reminds us that Blake, in *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell*, identified angels with the settled and coercive and assigned the qualities of energy and

creativity to his devils. According to Adams, poetry, in its broad and traditional sense of all imaginative writing, may be identified with Blake's devils.

Plato Critical Assessments Jun 27 2019 This set selects the best and most influential examples of Platonic scholarship published in English over the last fifty years, and adds translations of outstanding works published in other languages.

Literary Theory From Plato To Barthes May 19 2021 Richard Harland provides a lucid account of all the major movements in literary theory up to the late 1960s. In a lucid and accessible style, he unfolds a comprehensive "story" of literary theory in all its manifestations. Because contemporary literary theory depends heavily upon European thinkers, the book has an international focus, and its coverage extends from philosophers to social theorists to linguists. Harland explains the essential principles of each theoretical position, looking behind particular critical judgments and interpretations in order to convey a core grasp of underlying positions.

Plato's Theory of Knowledge Aug 22 2021 Two masterpieces of Plato's later period. The *Theaetetus* offers a systematic treatment of the question "What is knowledge?" The *Sophist* follows Socrates' cross-examination of a self-proclaimed true philosopher.

On Ideas Nov 12 2020 This is the first book on Aristotle's important but neglected essay *Peri ideon*, 'On Ideas', to be published in English. Gail Fine explores the philosophical merits of Aristotle's criticisms of Plato, and relates their views to current debates about universals, properties, meaning, and knowledge. The full, annotated text of *Peri ideon* is included, with translation.

Plato's 'Republic': An Introduction Aug 29 2019 It is an excellent book - highly intelligent, interesting and original. Expressing high philosophy in a readable form without trivialising it is a very difficult task and McAleer manages the task admirably. Plato is, yet again, intensely topical in the chaotic and confused world in which we are now living. Philip Allott, Professor Emeritus of International Public Law at Cambridge University This book is a lucid and accessible companion to Plato's *Republic*, throwing light upon the text's arguments and main themes, placing them in the wider context of the text's structure. In its illumination of the philosophical ideas underpinning the work, it provides readers with an understanding and appreciation of the complexity and literary artistry of Plato's *Republic*. McAleer not only unpacks the key overarching questions of the text - What is justice? And Is a just life happier than an unjust life? - but also highlights some fascinating, overlooked passages which contribute to our understanding of Plato's philosophical thought. *Plato's 'Republic': An Introduction* offers a rigorous and thought-provoking analysis of the text, helping readers navigate one of the world's most influential works of philosophy and political

theory. With its approachable tone and clear presentation, it constitutes a welcome contribution to the field, and will be an indispensable resource for philosophy students and teachers, as well as general readers new to, or returning to, the text.

Plato As Critical Theorist Jul 21 2021 Cover -- Title Page -- Copyright -- Epigraph -- Contents -- Preface -- Introduction -- 1. What Is Philosophy For? -- 2. Why Philosophers Should Rule -- 3. The Beautiful City -- 4. Plato and Athens -- 5. Historical Possibility -- 6. Philosopher-Citizens -- 7. Moneymaking and Malfunction -- Conclusion -- Bibliography -- Index

Seeming and Being in Plato's Rhetorical Theory May 31 2022 The widespread understanding of language in the West is that it represents the world. This view, however, has not always been commonplace. In fact, it is a theory of language conceived by Plato, culminating in *The Sophist*. In that dialogue Plato introduced the idea of statements as being either true or false, where the distinction between falsity and truth rests on a deeper discrepancy between appearance and reality, or seeming and being. Robin Reames's *Seeming & Being in Plato's Rhetorical Theory* marks a shift in Plato scholarship. Reames argues that an appropriate understanding of rhetorical theory in Plato's dialogues illuminates how he developed the technical vocabulary needed to construct the very distinctions between seeming and being that separate true from false speech. By engaging with three key movements of twentieth- and twenty-first-century Plato scholarship—the rise and subsequent marginalization of “orality and literacy theory,” Heidegger's controversial critique of Platonist metaphysics, and the influence of literary or dramatic readings of the dialogues—Reames demonstrates how the development of Plato's rhetorical theory across several of his dialogues (*Gorgias*, *Phaedrus*, *Protagoras*, *Theaetetus*, *Cratylus*, *Republic*, and *Sophist*) has been both neglected and misunderstood.

The Allegory of the Cave Jul 29 2019 The Allegory of the Cave, or Plato's Cave, was presented by the Greek philosopher Plato in his work *Republic* (514a-520a) to compare "the effect of education (???????) and the lack of it on our nature". It is written as a dialogue between Plato's brother Glaucon and his mentor Socrates, narrated by the latter. The allegory is presented after the analogy of the sun (508b-509c) and the analogy of the divided line (509d-511e). All three are characterized in relation to dialectic at the end of Books VII and VIII (531d-534e). Plato has Socrates describe a group of people who have lived chained to the wall of a cave all of their lives, facing a blank wall. The people watch shadows projected on the wall from objects passing in front of a fire behind them, and give names to these shadows. The shadows are the prisoners' reality.

Narratology and Interpretation Jun 07 2020 The categories of classical narratology have been successfully applied to ancient texts

in the last two decades, but in the meantime narratological theory has moved on. In accordance with these developments, *Narratology and Interpretation* draws out the subtler possibilities of narratological analysis for the interpretation of ancient texts. The articles make a contribution to the theory of narrative as well as to our understanding of ancient literature including epic, lyric, tragedy and historiography.

Plato's Essentialism Jun 19 2021 In this book, Vasilis Politis argues that Plato's Forms are essences, not merely things that have an essence. Politis shows that understanding Plato's theory of Forms as a theory of essence presents a serious challenge to contemporary philosophers who regard essentialism as little more than an optional item on the philosophical menu. This approach, he suggests, also constitutes a sharp critique of those who view Aristotelian essentialism as the only sensible position: Plato's essentialism, Politis demonstrates, is a well-argued, rigorous, and coherent theory, and a viable competitor to that of Aristotle. This book will appeal to students and scholars with an interest in the intersection between philosophy and the history of philosophy.

Plato Freud May 07 2020 What is love? Why do we idealize those whom we love? How do we choose whom to love? Are some kinds of love better than others? Each age returns to these questions with renewed perplexity. Gerasimos Santas examines the two greatest theoretical architectures of love, side by side. It provides a thorough critical description and comparison of these theories, allowing a sophisticated dialogue to emerge between the two thinkers. In the first half of the book Professor Santas reconstructs and explains Plato's theories of eros and philia: erotic love, familial love and friendship. He attempts to show that Plato's was a unified theory in which erotic love has a special connection with creativity and beauty. He then discusses Freud's notion of love as distinct from, though based on, his general theory of sexuality. He discusses in detail Freud's explanations, before and after narcissism, of idealization and choice of beloved. Freud too, it emerges, had a unified theory of love: all love has its origins in the libidinal instincts of infancy and childhood. The book concludes by showing that, despite Freud's claim that his theory of love is 'Platonic', the two theories are instructively different.

Plato's Theory of Education Sep 10 2020 First published in 2000. Routledge is an imprint of Taylor & Francis, an informa company.

Plato and the Divided Self Dec 26 2021 Investigates Plato's account of the tripartite soul, looking at how the theory evolved over the *Republic*, *Phaedrus* and *Timaeus*.

Recollection and Experience Sep 22 2021 Questions about learning and discovery have fascinated philosophers from Plato onwards. Does the mind bring innate resources of its own to the process of learning or does it rely wholly upon experience? Plato was the first philosopher

to give an innatist response to this question and in doing so was to provoke the other major philosophers of ancient Greece to give their own rival explanations of learning. This book examines these theories of learning in relation to each other. It presents an entirely different interpretation of the theory of recollection which also changes the way we understand the development of ancient philosophy after Plato. The final section of the book compares ancient theories of learning with the seventeenth-century debate about innate ideas, and finds that the relation between the two periods is far more interesting and complete than is usually supposed.