

# Lecture 1: Philosophical Argumentation: Britain

## - Golden Age of Greece

- In Greece, people were getting their wisdom from Oracles + consult mythology in times of trouble. People accepted this due to a lack of knowledge, and a lack of time to question any of this.
- As economy improved because of trade with other cultures, many people gained time to pose these questions.
- In this contact with other cultures, the Greece began to compare and contrast their many gods vs. god(s) of other cultures.
- Because of these two previous factors, Philosophy (which also included questions of natural science) was created.
- Since these explanation systems (mythologies), this led to a change in thought, and a thinking became **argumentative** (people wanted evidence to substantiate claims / myths).

## - Philosophical Argumentation

→ **philosophical argumentation: a system of methods, devices, and means by which philosophical systems are based, philosophical assertions are demonstrated, and their proof becomes evident.**

- it can be systematic (related to the unity of the theory)
- it can be analytical (related to the exposition of a certain theme)
- is an explication of concepts to gain more precise meaning.
- substantiates a claim or tries to develop new ones from them

## - Aiming at Objectivity

- in argumentation, we are offered the possibility of understanding a judgement, be it philosophical, of a like-minded thinker or other school.
- it believes that mutual understanding is possible.
- it aims to obtain a definite answer (arguing not compromising).
- philosophical argumentation convinces through evidence + reasons, not compromise, and begins with contention of truth.

## - Induction vs. Deduction

→ **induction: argues from particular claim or fact to make a general claim.**

**ex: There appears to be a cause for every effect, thus we can make law of causation.**

→ **deduction: argues from general statements to specific claims.**

**ex. All noble gases are stable. Helium is a noble gas, so helium is stable.**

- Philosophical argumentation should use both.