I. The Socratic Synthesis

- Socrates (c. 469–399 BCE)
- Elements of the synthesis:
  1. Pythagoras and his tradition (6th cent. BCE).
    - Parmenides and Zeno of Elea.
  3. The sophists.
  4. Mystery cults and other popular piety.
- A few results:
  - Hellenistic divisions of philosophy: Logic, physics, and ethics (late BCE–early CE) (1,100 years after Pythagoras!)

II. The Scholastic Edifice

- Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274).
  - Condemned in 1277, canonized in 1323.
- A narrowing of boundaries:
  - God as *esse ipsum*, “being itself.”
  - The study of substance: form & matter, with “accidents.”

III. The Cartesian Rearguard

- Corpuscularianism.
  - Calling back to Democritus (born c. 460 BCE).
- René Descartes (1596–1650).
  - “Thinking stuff” and “extended stuff” (*res cogitans* & *res extensa*).
  - Saving space for a properly “metaphysical” domain?
- Legacy of dualism(s).
- An old ambition: An abstract universality, apart from the particulars of history.
  - Immanuel Kant (1724–1804).
  - James Mill (1773–1836).
  - Friedrich Schleiermacher (1768–1834).
IV. Unravellings

- Mind and experience.
  - The rise of psychology as a distinct science (both theoretical and practical).
  - Phenomenology.
- Mathematical logic.
  - Gottlob Frege (1848–1925).
- Merely persuasive (rather than demonstrative) ethics.
  - Utilitarianism.
  - Consequentialism.

Six Definitions of Philosophy *(Alexandria, Egypt, late 6th century CE)*

*From the subject-matter:*

1. Philosophy is knowledge of real beings *qua* real beings. (Pythagoras)
2. Philosophy is knowledge of divine and human things. (Pythagoras)

*From the goal:*

3. Philosophy is a preparation for death. (Plato, *Phaedo*)
4. Philosophy is becoming like God, insofar as possible for Man. (Plato, *Thaeatetus*)

*From superiority:*

5. Philosophy is the craft of crafts and the science of sciences. (Aristotle, *Metaphysics*)

*From etymology:*

6. Philosophy is the love of wisdom. (Pythagoras)