Plato’s major ideas

• Metaphysical dualism (Myth of the Cave). The physical and intelligible worlds exist simultaneously. The physical world is a shadow of the intelligible, immaterial.
Two worlds

- Physical
- Senses
- Images (shadows, reflections) and objects
- Mutable
- Opinion

- Intelligible
- Intellect
- Thought-images (perfect circle), forms (of objects)
- Immutable
- Knowledge

Aim of philosophy: Form of the Good
Plato’s major ideas, 2

• Trichotomic anthropology: Humans have
  – appetites (= artisans)
  – emotions (“the spirited part” = guardians)
  – and reason (= rulers).
• The better part should rule. NOT a mind/body dualism.
Philosophical Schools: Stoics

• World is ruled by wise legislation, a principle of reason (*logos*).
• Humans have *spermatikos logos*, “seed-like reason”
• Good and evil are states of the soul.
• Emotions (pathos): pathological, sick soul.
• External circumstances bring neither happiness nor misery, whether king or slave
• Main values are *apatheia* and virtue
• Zeno is founder; Cleanthes, his student
Epicureans

- There is no afterlife. Atomic materialism: even the soul is made of atoms
- The g-ds exist, but have no need of humans. They are blessedly uninvolved.
- Therefore, there is no fear for humans.
- Primary value is ataraxia, imperturbability.
- Life should pass pleasantly in friendship: “Eat, drink, and be merry.”
Middle Platonism

• Xenocrates (4th c.) applies metaphysical dualism to structure of universe

• Three divisions: celestial (sun and stars), lunar, earth and water

• Highest god in celestial realm; daimones (have reason and emotion, like gods of Greek religion) in lunar region
Middle Platonism, 2

- Posidonius (1st c. BCE): human body has its origins in each of three parts of universe:
  - reason from celestial realm
  - emotions from lunar realm
  - body from terrestrial realm
- Humans have three natures; gods of Greek religion have two (emotions and reason);
highest god has one (reason).
- Animals have emotion and bodies, differ from humans in lacking divine reason
Middle Platonism, 3

- Albinus (Second Century)
- God primarily thinks. The ideal forms are his thoughts, and they are the objects of our thoughts
- The soul has one immortal part and two mortal parts
  - Appetites and emotions are mortal
  - Reason is immortal
- Descent and return of soul to celestial realm, its origin