

A Matter of Time
CL 65/Math 5
Winter 2005

Professor Pastor

Lecture 5—Outline

What is Time?

1. Death and the Compass.

- Is there time there?
- How many times?
- Why doesn't Lönnrot's time work?
- Time functions vs. Time definitions.

2. Creation Myths: What did they tell us about Time?

3. Art and Time:

- Toreador Fresco and Kylix
- Three Musicians

4. How do WE define Time?

- Clocks
- Calendars
- Is it Time they tell us about? How? What?

5. Let's look at some definitions:

Plato:

- 1. Time = "Moving image of eternity"**
- 2. Celestial bodies = "Created to preserve the measures of Time".**

What does this tell us about time?

Aristotle:

1. **The paradoxes:** "Time does not exist at all, or barely, and in the obscure way".
2. **Time** = "the number of motion with respect to before and after".
3. **Time** = "movement. Only is movement in so far as it admits enumeration."
4. **Time** = "continuous, as the points in a line. But all points are the same and all "nows" are different".
5. **Time** "is by its nature the cause rather of decay, since it is the number of change, and change removes what is".

6. **St. Augustine's view of Time**

Time = A distension of the soul

7. **The "two cultures"**

8. **People's Time: From Antiquity to Middle Ages**

- **Peasants: Crescenzi's miniature**
- **Monks: Sacred time**
- **Books of Hours: Secular Time**

9. **What town clocks did: Time in the Renaissance**

- **The Flemish miniature**
- **The heart of city life**
- **Carpe Diem**

10. **Galileo's tale.**