

# A Matter of Time W07

## Thinking about Time

### Outline

#### What is Time?

1. Mythical encodings of Time: Time as narrative
  - Genesis, Enuma Elish, Theogony
2. Computation and models of Time: Calendars
3. Ritual, Art and Time:
  - Toreador Fresco and Kylix
5. Let's look at some definitions of Time:

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

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

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

- The Flemish miniature
- Carpe Diem

9. **Galileo's Time: an independent physical reality**

10. **Shakespeare and Newton: Absolute time**

11. **How do WE define Time? Computation/Experience**

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