

# PLATO: Two views of rhetoric

Gloria Boone

# Plato (427-347 BC)

---

Greek Philosopher

Socratic dialogues

Wrote :The Apology, The Republic

The Academy (387 BC)



# Plato: Gorgias – False Rhetoric

---

- ▶ Attacked Sophists
- ▶ Gorgias of Leontini (Sicily) argument from probability, florid style
- ▶ Socrates attacks rhetoric
  - ▶ 1. Rhetoric is not an art
  - ▶ 2. Rhetoric does not confer power
  - ▶ 3. Rhetoric is not truth
  - ▶ 4. Rhetoric helps people escape punishment
  - ▶ 5. Rhetoric is like cookery or flattery



# Plato: Phaedrus – a true rhetoric

---

- ▶ Three Speeches about love (rhetoric)
- ▶ Phaedrus hears a speech by Lysias praising the **non-lover** who lacks emotions but is very objective.
- ▶ Socrates introduces the **evil lover** who uses language to deceive others.
- ▶ After more questioning Socrates offers the **noble love** who is concerned with the soul and truth



# Plato on Truth and Knowledge

---

- ▶ **Allegory of the Cave**
- ▶ The gulf between the world of men and the gods
- ▶ Theory of Forms (Archetypes)
- ▶ Dialectic

