

"A Day In The Garden: Epicurus, Hermarchus, Leonteus, Themista, Hippoclidides, Polystratus, and Alexandria" by Genevra Catalano (2023)

Post by "Kalosyni" of October 30, 2023 at 1:35 PM

[Quote from Nate](#)

Based on my understanding, the "white toga" is a bit of a historical misnomer. The toga is a Roman-specific piece of garb whereas the Greeks wore tunics and chitons (among a number of other styles). Clothing was typically colorful and included a variety of dyes, as much as people have always used dyes and pigmentation as an aesthetic. (Lee, Mireille M. Body, dress, and identity in ancient Greece. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2015).

Thank you, I realized I used "toga"...which is from the later Roman era. I can find a lot more on ancient Roman compared to ancient Greece. The toga virilis was white and senators also wore white. We now know that [ancient sculptures were painted bright colors](#), but that doesn't really answer the question of what color robe Epicurus would have worn.

This is on ancient Roman clothing:

Quote

The boundaries between the different classes were strict and legally enforced: members of different classes even dressed differently. Only the [emperor](#) was allowed to wear a purple toga, while senators could wear a white toga with the latus clavus, a broad purple stripe along the edge. [Equestrian](#) togas had a narrow purple stripe (clavus augustus).

[\(Source\)](#)

I am still doing more research on ancient Greece, such as finding out if certain colors were reserved for special festivals, in which ritual clothing (perhaps more colorful) was donned.

Also, certain color dyes were very costly. Red madder (a brick red, paler and browner) was less expensive than red kermes (more vibrant crimson red).

The question remains...what would a philosopher/teacher wear?