

Course Information Sheet

Exploring Philosophy



Embark on a thought-provoking journey! Explore fundamental questions about life, knowledge, and existence.

Course Description:

Have you ever wondered about the meaning of life? This captivating 8-week course, Exploring Philosophy, equips you with the tools to grapple with the big questions that have challenged humanity for centuries. Delve into core branches of philosophy (ethics, epistemology, metaphysics) and explore the ideas of influential philosophers. Analyse arguments surrounding morality, knowledge, and the nature of reality. Develop your critical thinking skills and learn to construct sound arguments. Through interactive lectures, discussions, and thought-provoking activities, you'll gain a deeper understanding of philosophical concepts and their relevance to our lives today. Join us and explore the wonders of philosophy!

What will I learn?

- **Week 1 & 2:** Introduction to Philosophy - Uncover the core questions of philosophy, explore different branches of philosophy (ethics, epistemology, metaphysics), and analyse the importance of critical thinking in philosophical inquiry.
- **Week 3 & 4:** Ethics & Morality - Delve into the theories of ethics (utilitarianism, deontology, virtue ethics), analyse moral dilemmas, and develop your own ethical reasoning skills.
- **Week 5 & 6:** Knowledge & Epistemology - Explore theories of knowledge (empiricism, rationalism, scepticism), analyse the nature of knowledge and justification, and discuss contemporary challenges to knowledge in the digital age.
- **Week 7 & 8:** Metaphysics & Reality - Examine fundamental questions about the nature of reality (existence, mind-body problem, free will), analyse different philosophical arguments, and consider the implications for our understanding of the world.

How will I be assessed?

- **Formative:** Weekly online quizzes, discussion forums, and short writing exercises will test your understanding of philosophical concepts and encourage critical thinking.
- **Summative:** A final essay where you choose a philosophical topic that interests you, analyse it in-depth using relevant theories and arguments from the course, and present your own well-reasoned perspective.

Who is this course for?

This course is open to anyone curious about the big questions in life and eager to explore the world of philosophy. No prior knowledge is required.

Who is your target audience?

This course is designed for learners hoping to develop a new level of understanding of philosophy. It caters to those who want to explore core philosophical questions, engage with the ideas of influential philosophers, develop critical thinking and reasoning skills, and gain a broader perspective on life's complexities.

Progression Opportunities:

After completing this course, you can delve deeper into specific areas of philosophy that pique your interest (e.g., ethics, political philosophy, philosophy of science). Consider pursuing further studies in philosophy programs offered by universities across the UK.

Career or Job Enhancement Pathways:

This course can be a stepping stone towards various careers that benefit from critical thinking and strong analytical skills, such as:

- Law
- Education
- Policy Analysis
- Research

How do I enrol?

If you are paying the full fee, the quickest way to enrol is online at www.oucoursesouthwest.co.uk, simply create an account and select enrol now. Alternatively, you will need to speak to one of our customer service team on 01752 660713.

How will the course be delivered?

This is a practical course, and the sessions will include tutor-led demonstrations, learner-led group activities, instruction and repetition. These will form part of the delivery together with one-to-one support as required.

Will I need to practise outside the classroom?

You will be encouraged to review your notes between lessons to ensure maximum benefit from your course. It is always useful to practise your skills between sessions. Your tutor may encourage home learning, or independent research.

How will I know I'm making progress?

During the first session, your tutor will discuss your goals and current level in relation to the course. Based on this assessment, you will agree individual targets which you will record in your individual learning plan (ILP). You and your tutor will review your targets regularly to ensure that you are making progress; these will be written in your individual learning plan.

What will I need?

Please bring a notepad, and pen to each session. You may wish to bring a file for any handouts. A laptop with internet access is required for completion of coursework and home learning outside of the classroom.

Please note:

Most courses attract a subsidy from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). It is a requirement of the ESFA that you complete various forms at different stages of your course, further information is available on request. Courses are subject to a minimum number of enrolments and could be cancelled if recruitment is low. In some cases, an alternative class at a different location may be offered.

Terms and conditions are available at

<https://www.onsouthwest.co.uk/learner-information/essential-information-for-every-learner>

Room numbers are subject to change - please check when you arrive at the venue.

