

# Course Information Sheet

## Exploring Philosophy



**Course Summary:** Embark on a thought-provoking journey through the history of philosophy, exploring fundamental questions about knowledge, existence, and morality.

### **Course Description:**

This 8-week course offers a comprehensive introduction to the world of philosophy. Delve into the history of Western philosophy from ancient Greece to the present day, exploring key figures, concepts, and schools of thought.

Engage with fundamental questions about knowledge, existence, and morality. Learn to analyze philosophical arguments, develop critical thinking skills, and form your own informed opinions on complex issues.

### **What will I learn?**

- Week 1: Introduction to Philosophy
  - Define philosophy and its main areas of study.
  - Explore key philosophical terms and concepts.
  - Discuss the nature of knowledge and how we know what we know (epistemology).
  - Introduction to logic and its role in philosophical reasoning.
- Week 2: What is a Human Being?
  - Examine different perspectives on human existence.
  - Discuss rationalism, dualism, and existentialism.
  - Explore the philosophy of religion and the search for religious truth.

- Week 3: Metaphysics and the Existence of God
  - Delve into the history of metaphysics and its central questions.
  - Explore various proofs for the existence of God and their critiques.
- Week 4: Aesthetics - Defining Beauty
  - Discuss the nature of beauty and its subjective or objective qualities.
  - Explore visual aesthetics and the philosophy of art.
  - Examine poetics and the philosophy of literature.
- Week 5: Moral Philosophy
  - Define goodness and explore different ethical theories.
  - Discuss how we ought to behave and the foundations of morality.
- Week 6: Political Philosophy
  - Define justice and explore different theories of justice.
  - Discuss the concept of good governance and the role of the state.
- Week 7: Postmodernism and Quantum Physics
  - Examine the emergence of postmodernism and its critique of traditional philosophy.
  - Explore the intersection of philosophy and quantum physics.
  - Discuss current philosophical trends and debates.
- Week 8: Review and Synthesis
  - Review key concepts and themes from the course.
  - Engage in a final group discussion on the relevance of philosophy in today's world.

**How will I be assessed?**

- Formative: Participation in class discussions and weekly reflective writing prompts.
- Summative: A final essay on a chosen philosophical topic and a presentation summarizing key takeaways from the course.

### **Who is this course for?**

This course is designed for anyone with an interest in philosophy, regardless of prior knowledge or background.

### **Progression Opportunities:**

Upon completion, learners can consider further educational opportunities in philosophy, ethics, political science, or related fields. Explore higher education programs or specialized courses to deepen your understanding of philosophical concepts.

### **Career or Job Enhancement Pathways:**

- Teaching: Share your passion for philosophy as an educator.
- Research: Contribute to the field of philosophy through academic research and writing.
- Law: Apply philosophical reasoning and critical thinking skills in a legal career.
- Public Policy: Analyze and develop policies using philosophical frameworks.

### **How do I enrol?**

The quickest way to enrol is online at [www.oncoursesouthwest.co.uk](http://www.oncoursesouthwest.co.uk), simply create an account and select 'Enrol now'. Alternatively, if you have any questions, please call our friendly 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.onscoursesouthwest.co.uk/learner-information/essential-information-for-every-learner>

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

