after:hours Centre for Languages, Culture and Communication

**Course Descriptor**

**Course Title:** Ten Great Western Philosophers

**Type of Course:** Adult Education

**Credit:** Not credit bearing

**Weekly Session Titles and Descriptions**

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| Week | Session Title |
| 1 | Introducing Philosophy and Plato |
| 2 | Introducing Aristotle |
| 3 | Introducing Descartes |
| 4 | Introducing Locke |
| 5 | Introducing Hume |
| 6 | Introducing Kant |
| 7 | Introducing Nietzsche |
| 8 | Introducing the American Pragmatists (James, Peirce and Dewey) |
| 9 | Introducing Wittgenstein and de Beauvoir |
| 10 | Introducing Heidegger and Existentialism |

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| Course OverviewOn this course we are going to discover the ideas of some of the major philosophers from within the European tradition. This will be an introductory course in philosophy, so we will explore some of the familiar and not-so-familiar theories of philosophers ranging from Plato and Aristotle to Kant and Nietzsche, and more besides.As well as examining the main areas and features of their thought and discovery aspects of their thinking, we will consider how many of the problems they sought to grapple with persist today in life, culture and thought today.Although each session is self-contained, the course will build to cover the central subjects, philosophical schools of thought and approaches within the European tradition, and also examine the assumptions behind the idea these are the great philosophers of the Western tradition and why the canonical version of that tradition seems to only comprise white men.Required Previous Experience (if any)NoneRequired Reading Material or Special Equipment Needed (if any)NoneLearning OutcomesAt the end of this course you should be able to1. Identify and understand the basic theories of some of the most significant philosophers in the Western tradition.
2. Understand the basic methodology of the philosophers studied and how they reached the conclusions they came to
3. Identify aspects of the work of key Western philosophers that impact in the wider world.

**Possible Further Study**Further courses on the after:hours programme might be useful to you.Additional informationThis course descriptor may be subject to change during the delivery of the course, depending on the specific direction and nature of the learner cohort, and is intended to be responsive to the group dynamics as they emerge during the delivery of the course. |