



## Course details

### Course title

Philosophy : Consciousness human and animal

### Course code

Q00020740

### Course date

Start: 20/01/25

End: 24/03/25

### Number of classes

9 sessions

### Timetable

Mon 20th Jan, 9:00 to 11:00

Mon 27th Jan, 9:00 to 11:00

Mon 3rd Feb, 9:00 to 11:00

Mon 10th Feb, 9:00 to 11:00

Mon 24th Feb, 9:00 to 11:00

Mon 3rd Mar, 9:00 to 11:00

Mon 10th Mar, 9:00 to 11:00

Mon 17th Mar, 9:00 to 11:00

Mon 24th Mar, 9:00 to 11:00

### Tutor

Bettina Lange

### Fee:

£66.60

### How you'll learn

You'll join a small group of fellow learners for classes online in video meetings and materials will be provided in our virtual learning environment.

Got it!  
Online

**Venue**  
Online

**Level of study**  
Beginners

## **Course overview**

People often say that their dog or cat knows something or has learnt something or is aware of people's emotions or intentions. So people attribute some kind of conscious thought to other species. Scientists also increasingly attribute consciousness to non-human animals – octopuses for example. Are we justified in this or are these unjustified projections of human qualities onto other species? and what do we mean by consciousness? This course introduces students to different meanings of 'consciousness', with the help of influential philosophical theories and evidence from science, and to enable them to evaluate to what extent (non-human) animals are conscious.

## **Course description**

What do we mean by consciousness? having concepts? being aware of time and space? anticipating and planning for the future? making judgements about the right course of action? self-awareness? Philosophers have been trying to understand consciousness for a very long time. It has often been assumed or argued in Philosophy that only humans are conscious or self-aware – an approach which has recently been increasingly questioned. Some philosophers argue that it is very likely that other species are also capable of conscious thought because humans evolved from other species, so there is bound to be continuity. Others argue that there is something unique about human self-awareness which other species are not capable of. Course content: people's (and philosophers') intuitions about animal consciousness; definitions of consciousness and criteria for what should count as conscious; the philosophical problem of other minds; the internal perspective - or what it's like to be a bat; a history of philosophical thinking about human and animal consciousness.

## **What financial support is available?**

We don't want anything to stand in your way when it comes to bringing Adult learning within reach so if you need anything to support you to achieve your goals then speak to one of our education experts during your enrolment journey. Most of our courses are government funded but if you don't qualify or need alternative financial help to access them then let us know.

## **What other support is available?**

All of our digital content, teaching and learning activities and assessments are designed to be accessible so if you need any additional support you can discuss this with the education experts during your enrolment journey and we will do all we can to make sure you have optimal access.

**Source URL:** <https://www.wea.org.uk/courses/humanities-science/philosophy/20-january-philosophy-consciousness-human-and-animal>