



Course details

Course title

Philosophy : Realism – moral, scientific and metaphysical

Course code

Q00020741

Course date

Start: 22/01/25

End: 26/03/25

Number of classes

9 sessions

Timetable

Wed 22nd Jan, 16:45 to 18:45

Wed 29th Jan, 16:45 to 18:45

Wed 5th Feb, 16:45 to 18:45

Wed 12th Feb, 16:45 to 18:45

Wed 26th Feb, 16:45 to 18:45

Wed 5th Mar, 16:45 to 18:45

Wed 12th Mar, 16:45 to 18:45

Wed 19th Mar, 16:45 to 18:45

Wed 26th Mar, 16:45 to 18:45

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

It had become common in modern societies to assume that moral values and what counts as true vary between people and societies and that if someone else's morality or truth conflicts with your own, you should be tolerant of it rather than insisting that the other person is wrong. However many people feel uneasy about this because they think truth is not a matter of opinion, that there are instead objective truths, and that certain moral values are binding on all and not negotiable. In Philosophy these arguments are called 'realist'. We will explore some of them in this course.

Course description

'Realism' includes the views that there is a real world out there and that there are objective moral values (which we can discover, at least in principle). It has been a feature of Philosophy for a very long time but its influence has varied. In the 21st century there has been a revival of realism in response to 'relativist' views and particular developments. For example, there has been increasing discomfort that without objective truth there is no common basis for arguing against conspiracy theories. Relativism asserts that what counts as true or real and what is regarded as morally binding varies between individuals and societies. This course starts with a summary of these relativist arguments. We will then consider three forms of realism. Scientific realism claims that there is a/one real world, which the application of scientific methods allows us to understand and represent accurately, at least in principle. Moral realism argues that moral values are also facts, which people don't actually disagree about. 'Murder is wrong' is often mentioned as an example of such a fact. Metaphysical realism is the view that there is a/one real world, which we may or may be able to access using scientific methods.

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.

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