



About Philosophy for Beginners

'Every seeker after wisdom knows that up to the time when philosophy takes it over, his soul is a helpless prisoner, chained hand and foot in the body, compelled to view reality not directly, but only through its prison bars, and wallowing in utter ignorance' (Socrates in Plato, The Republic).

- ◆ Do you want to explore life's 'Big Questions'?
- ◆ Do you want to discuss different ideas and world-views?
- ◆ Do you want to stretch your brain and improve your thinking skills
- ◆ Do you enjoy stimulating discussions and exploring philosophical issues?

Philosophy is a practice that explores ideas, assumptions and beliefs. Philosophy stimulates the brain and takes you outside of your normal thinking patterns. You can study Philosophy formally at university. Or you can join a small group of others and have fun doing Philosophy informally.

The Course

Philosophy for Beginners is a user-friendly approach to Philosophy that is suitable for those who want to learn how to do Philosophy in an informal setting. There are guidelines for discussion so that you know what to do and how to keep on track.

The course does not require any pre-requisites, other than a curious mind and a willingness to engage in thinking and discussion, as well as listening respectfully to others. Each week a topic is presented, with suggested discussion questions, and an invitation to choose your own questions. The aim is not to find agreement, but to find meaning. When differences of opinion remain, Philosophy helps you to understand why.

Delivery

Philosophy for Beginners is delivered to small groups of 8 participants in 2-hour weekly sessions. Module 1 (8-sessions), introduces Philosophy and its major areas of interest. Modules 2 -5 (each has 6-sessions), offer more topics for exploration. Sessions consist of a PowerPoint presentation on the topic for that week, a break for refreshments, and then a discussion session. You explore the topic and share your views with other participants. At each session, you are provided with comprehensive notes.

Activities during discussion include probing assumptions, concepts, beliefs and conclusions. You learn about 'assertions' and 'arguments' and how to argue philosophically. You examine important questions about topics such as *Existence, Ethics* and *Knowledge*.

Courses are offered each year, so get in touch if you would like to be involved. You may have like-minded friends who would enjoy Philosophy also. Philosophy is very good for the brain! Contact me by email or phone, details below. Also keep an eye on the website for details of scheduled courses.

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