

Course details

Course title

Philosophy: Reasons, Explanations and Justifications

Course code

Q00017669

Course date

Start: 23/09/24

End: 25/11/24

Number of classes

9 sessions

Timetable

Mon 23rd Sep, 9:00 to 11:00

Mon 30th Sep, 9:00 to 11:00

Mon 7th Oct, 9:00 to 11:00

Mon 14th Oct, 9:00 to 11:00

Mon 28th Oct, 9:00 to 11:00

Mon 4th Nov, 9:00 to 11:00

Mon 11th Nov, 9:00 to 11:00

Mon 18th Nov, 9:00 to 11:00

Mon 25th Nov, 9:00 to 11:00

Tutor

Bettina Lange

Fee:

£59.20

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

When people ask why someone does something (for example why they lie) or what the reason for something is (for example for flooding or increased support for a political movement,) what exactly are they asking ? This course introduces you to three philosophical answers to this question. The first is to distinguish types of reason – ‘explanatory’, ‘motivating’, and ‘normative’. The second consists in pointing out that there are different reasons for accepting a statement as valid – truth, rightness (e.g. moral), and truthfulness. The third is to specify criteria for what creates or maintains moral or political justification. The course is intended to help you think more clearly about the ‘why question’ and to bring useful insights to what can be contentious topics.

Course description

When people ask why someone does something (for example why they lie) or what the reason for something is (for example for flooding or increased support for a political movement,) what exactly are they asking ? This course introduces you to three philosophical answers to this question. The first is to distinguish types of reason – ‘explanatory’ (reasons which explain, for example what caused an event);, ‘motivating’ (reasons which tell you what motivates people to act or think in certain ways), and ‘normative’ (reasons why people should behave or think in certain ways). The second answer (developed by Habermas) consists in pointing out that there are different reasons for accepting a statement as valid – truth (the statement matches what is the case), rightness (it tells you what is morally permitted or required, or appropriate or justified), and truthfulness (it is an authentic expression of feelings or intentions). The third answer (developed in particular by Rainer Forst and Jonathan Floyd) is to specify criteria for what creates or maintains moral or political justification – whether these are that those expected to follow rules have a real chance of co-creating those rules (Forst) or that people refrain from crime or political insurrection because they regard a regime as basically legitimate (Floyd).

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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