

ANIMA EDUCATION

An Apostolate of the Catholic Women's League of Victoria and Wagga Wagga Inc.

What is wrong with the world? Or: An Introduction to Philosophy

Aim:

This series seeks to introduce you to Philosophy as a practical subject that you can apply to your own life, covering key figures and ideas, but most importantly giving you the skills to explain and defend your thoughts – an invaluable asset in a world that is rapidly losing the ability to think.

Taught by: Natasha Marsh MA Th, BLibA, AMusA Musicianship.

A former journalist, Natasha Marsh currently lectures in philosophy, theology and ethics at the University of Notre Dame, Sydney, and teaches Core Curriculum at the Australian Catholic University in Melbourne. In 2018, she completed a Master of Arts in Theological Studies from the John Paul II Institute for Marriage and Family. Natasha has been involved in Catholic education for seven years, running and directing a sacred music choir for a parish of over 2,000 people. Alongside this, she worked as a roving journalist for Catholic media since 2015. Her work has been published in Catholic papers across Australia, and abroad including London, Rome and The States. From journalism to teaching, her passion is to teach the beauty and reasonableness of the Catholic faith.

Rationale:

Have you ever found yourself thinking: 'Where has the common sense gone?' Or had an intuition that something is not quite right with the world, but can't put your finger on why? Or been challenged to explain your faith but are at a loss to explain what you think and why you think it? You are not alone. For decades, there has been a lack in an area of education which used to answer this need –the area called Philosophy.

Not just for cigar smoking students, Philosophy (from the Greek meaning 'the love of wisdom') is a highly practical ancient skill which is not so much about learning new information, but a way of knowing what to *do* with the information given to us. Philosophy is a habit and training of mind which helps to link complex subjects together and make overall sense of the world. In a time when our faith, our beliefs and our structures are being daily challenged, Philosophy helps keep a sense of sanity, understanding, and also gives us the skills to articulate our beliefs to an unbelieving world.

This 10-hour seminar offers a practical, hands-on approach to Philosophy. It will introduce some of Philosophy's major thinkers (Plato, Aristotle, Thomas Aquinas, Descartes, Lock, Nietzsche, Sartre and others) as well as cover key philosophical ideas. It will focus especially the idea of 'truth', and whether it can be known, we will see how different philosophies have tried to answer this fraught question.

This seminar is not just about asking 'what's wrong with the world' – but will give you the skills to articulate your thoughts in a world that has lost the art of thinking.

Learning Objectives:

1. You will be able to locate the timeline or 'history of ideas' in the West, from Ancient Greece to modern day.
2. You will be able to identify key 'ideas' and movements of Philosophy – including post-modernism, modernism, realism and relativism.
3. You will be able to distinguish some of the key figures of Philosophy – Plato, Aristotle, St Thomas Aquinas, Locke, Hume, Nietzsche and Sartre.
4. You will be able to relate these ideas in your own life and evaluate them in the context of our current climate.
5. It will help you to clarify your own thoughts and communicate them with others.