WEA Course information sheet 2019-20

WEA Adult Learning Within Reach

Course title: Language and Reality		**Course ID:** C2341548
Start date: 21/10/2019	**End date:** 02/12/2019	**Day(s)/time(s):** Mon 18:45
Number of sessions: 6	**Hours per session:** 2.25	**Tutor** Bettina Lange
Additional hours:	**Online Learning Hours:** 0	

Specific funder/partner requirements:	
Awarding body (if any): **Title of qualification to be gained:**	**Level:** Level 2

Fee: £54.00   or **Free** if you are in receipt of an income related benefit (only SFA funded)
Accreditation Fee (if applicable):

Venue: Nottingham Mechanics, 3 North Sherwood Street, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, NG1 4EZ

Theme(s): The WEA has four themes it uses for planning its provision.
Employability – helping students to get a job or to make progress in their employment
Health and Wellbeing – making a positive contribution to their own or others health and wellbeing
Community Engagement – encouraging students to be positively involved in their communities
Culture – learning about diverse cultures, identities and environments

The Theme(s) used in planning your course is/ are:

1. **Culture Education**   2.

Course Aim
to introduce students to philosophical conceptions of language and to give them the opportunity to reflect on their own understanding of language

Course Description
Does language represent the world, or is it the other way round - that we can only live in world our words allow us to see ? Do words have a fixed meaning, or is Humpty Dumpty right - that words mean 'just what we want them to mean' ? This course explores questions like these with the help of philosophers including Wittgenstein. Previous knowledge of philosophy is not expected.

Course content :
1. introduction : How do we know the meaning of words ? Does silence have a meaning ?
2. Can language represent the world ? 'item-centred' views and the 'picture theory' of language; relativist views of language and Humpty Dumpty
3. Structuralism or Do we speak the language or does the language speak us ?
4. Wittgenstein : "The meaning of a word is its use."
5. Speech act theory or "How to do things with words"
6. Can language be a window to metaphysical realities (for example according to Heidegger)

Do I need any particular skills or experience?

What will I achieve?
By the end of the course I will be able to:
1. Give a clear account of my own understanding of how we know the meaning of words
2. Show how features in the approaches covered relate to my own experience and use of language
3. Explain what is distinctive about at least two approaches to language covered on the course
4. Provide a more detailed account of language, meaning and communication according to at least own of the approaches covered
5. Explain to what extent my own understanding of language, meaning and communication has changed as a result of the course

What teaching methods will be used and will there be work outside of the class?
- The WEA tutor will use a range of different teaching and learning methods and encourage you and the group to be actively involved in your learning

What kind of feedback can I expect from the tutor?
- A range of informal activities will be used by the tutor to see what you are learning which may include quizzes, question and answer, small projects and discussion
- You will be encouraged to share your work with the group and discuss your learning
- You will be encouraged to consider other students work and give your opinions and suggestions

What else do I need to know? Is there anything I need to bring?
- Nothing else is needed

Pre-course work, reading and information sources
- No pre reading is required but research on the subject on the internet or in the library may be helpful

Possible next steps after this course (including career opportunities if appropriate)
- Progress to another WEA course
- Progress to a course with another provider
- Become involved with the WEA in a range of voluntary work and other activities including campaigning as a WEA member
- You could progress to Higher Education courses. Follow link to the PEARL website for information
http://pearl.open.ac.uk/

Learning with the WEA
WEA courses increasingly make use of the rich variety of educational tools and material available on the internet and from digital devices. The WEA's digital learning platform, Canvas will play an increasing role in all WEA courses to provide resources or support, or to conduct lessons, enable assessment, provide learner feedback and for other activities for individuals away from the course. It is helpful, although not essential if you have access to a computer or smartphone to support your course.

You can read about your entitlements and responsibilities as a WEA student in our leaflet, Student Handbook here http://www.wea.org.uk/learn-wea/student-support This includes information on fees,

learning support and financial support. As part of your course you accept our Learning Agreement and Privacy Notice. Full details of the Learning Agreement and privacy notice can be found on our website at http://www.wea.org.uk/policies. This applies to all courses you take in this academic year.

You can enrol online for some courses http://www.wea.org.uk/learn-wea/course-search or contact: WEA Support Services, Suite 10B Joseph's Well, Hanover Way, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS3 1AB Tel: 0300 303 3464 Email: courseenquiries@wea.org.uk

Education & Skills Funding Agency

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