

**WEA Course information sheet**  
**2020-21**



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|---|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Course title:</b> Philosophy - What Can We Know  |                                 | <b>Course ID:</b> C2343789       |
| <b>Start date:</b> 07/10/2020   | <b>End date:</b> 25/11/2020     | <b>Day(s)/time(s):</b> Wed 19:15 |
| <b>Number of sessions:</b> 7  | <b>Hours per session:</b> 2     | <b>Tutor</b> Bettina Lange       |
| <b>Additional hours:</b>  | <b>Online Learning Hours:</b> 0 |                                  |
| <b>Specific funder/partner requirements:</b>  |                                 |                                  |
| <b>Awarding body (if any):</b>  |                                 | <b>Level:</b> Entry 1            |
| <b>Title of qualification to be gained:</b>   |                                 |                                  |
| <b>Fee:</b> £44.80 or <b>Free</b> if you are in receipt of an income related benefit (only SFA funded)  |                                 |                                  |
| <b>Accreditation Fee</b> (if applicable):   |                                 |                                  |
| <b>Venue:</b> Online Learning, Online, ZZ99 9ZZ   |                                 |                                  |
| <p><b>Theme(s):</b> The WEA has four themes it uses for planning its provision.<br/> <b>Employability</b> – helping students to get a job or to make progress in their employment<br/> <b>Health and Wellbeing</b> – making a positive contribution to their own or others health and wellbeing<br/> <b>Community Engagement</b> – encouraging students to be positively involved in their communities<br/> <b>Culture</b> – learning about diverse cultures, identities and environments</p> <p>The Theme(s) used in planning your course is/ are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Culture Education</b></li> <li>2.</li> </ol> |                                 |                                  |

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| <p><b>Course Aim</b><br/> Most people have asked themselves what we can really know. This course introduces students to key philosophical debates about what we can know and gives them the opportunity to practice and refine their thinking and debating skills.</p>   |
| <p><b>Course Description</b><br/> The course will cover : the meaning of “I don’t know”; influential philosophical theories of knowledge – scepticism, realism, phenomenism, idealism; knowledge as “justified true belief”; Popper and falsifiability; types of knowledge : from experience; abstract; knowledge as pattern or habit; practical knowledge; wisdom; the limits of (human) knowledge – social limits to knowledge (e.g. Sandra Harding) and structural limitations to human knowledge (e.g. logical – the problem of self-referential systems).</p>   |
| <p><b>Do I need any particular skills or experience?</b></p> <p>- You will need your own personal email address so that you’re able to login to the WEA’s digital learning platform: WEA Canvas. You will need to be able to understand how to follow URL links to pages on the internet. If you want to understand more about Canvas please visit:<br/> <a href="http://bit.ly/WEAonline">http://bit.ly/WEAonline</a></p> <p>- You will need to be able to follow links to join our WEA live video learning platform: WEA Zoom. If you’d like to understand more about our video learning platform, Zoom please visit:<br/> <a href="http://bit.ly/WEAonline">http://bit.ly/WEAonline</a> and <a href="http://bit.ly/ZoomSpec">http://bit.ly/ZoomSpec</a></p> |

- This course is suitable for beginners and improvers

### **What will I achieve?**

#### **By the end of the course I will be able to:**

1. explain at least two different meanings of 'knowledge'
2. give examples of at least two different types of knowledge
3. give an outline of at least two different philosophical theories of knowledge
4. state which arguments regarding what we can know you find more and less convincing – one each, with reasons for your view
5. give an account of an insight gained or a view or judgement better expressed or expressed differently as a result of the course

### **What teaching methods will be used and will there be work outside of the class?**

- The WEA's digital learning platform, Canvas will be used to provide resources or to support lessons, enable assessment, provide learner feedback and for other activities for individuals away from the course. If you want to understand more about our digital learning platform please visit: <http://bit.ly/WEAonline>
- 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
- You may be asked to undertake additional work in your own time to support 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

### **What else do I need to know? Is there anything I need to bring?**

- What you need: You will need an internet connection, speakers, a microphone and a webcam so that you can use our video learning platform, Zoom. If you'd like to understand more Zoom please visit: <http://bit.ly/ZoomSpec>
- You will also need access to the internet outside of your sessions. You could do this using a smart phone, tablet, laptop or a desktop computer (at home or through a library etc.).
- You will need a personal email address to join the WEA's digital learning platform, Canvas so that you can receive resources, record your progress and achievement and to work with others and share ideas. If you want to understand more about our digital learning platform please visit: <http://bit.ly/WEAonline>

### **Pre-course work, reading and information sources**

- not expected before the start of the course, but you may want to have a look at :

B Dupre, 50 Philosophy Ideas you really need to know (Quercus) chapters 1 – 6, 33

N Fearn, Philosophy. The latest answers to the oldest questions ((Atlantic Books 2005), ch 5 a 10

### **Possible next steps after this course (including career opportunities if appropriate)**

- Progress to another WEA course
- 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 most 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](mailto:courseenquiries@wea.org.uk)



Education & Skills  
Funding Agency



European Union  
European Social Fund

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