

Philosophy – The **Big** Questions

A Course with Dr Nicholas Joll

Overview

This course asks big questions – big even for philosophy – about religion, ethics, art, freedom and meaning. Those questions are detailed below. Notwithstanding the size of the questions, the course will be introductory; a willingness to think is all that is required!

Schedule

Week	Topic	Description of topic
1	Religion	What is it to be religious? Should we be religious? Is there a God? Is the atheist in a predicament?
2	Ethics	Is there any kind of objectivity to rightness and wrongness, goodness and badness? Does it matter?
3	Art	What is art? What is its value?
4	Freedom	What is it to be free? <i>Are</i> we free?
5	Meaning	Is life, or the universe, the sort of thing that can have a meaning? If so, what is it? If not, is that a problem?

Mechanics

I envisage each session as comprising a forty-minute lecture, a twenty-minute break, and an hour's discussion. There will be handouts. For schedule and location and the like, please see <http://lfpleasure.wixsite.com/brentwood/classes>, under 'class L'.