

Philosophy Breakfast @ Wivenhoe Bookshop

Unlikely Philosophical Propositions

A Course in Two Parts, with Dr Nicholas Joll

‘There is nothing so absurd but some philosopher has said it’ – thus Cicero, and others have echoed him. Yet, someone else has remarked that, ‘Truth is objective, not plausible’. This course tries to give a fair hearing to some rather surprising philosophical ideas.

PART I: Matter and Stuff

Saturdays 10.00–11.30am from September 16th

1. You can’t step in the same river twice (Heraclitus) or even (Cratylus) once
 2. Fire is not hot (Locke)
 3. Matter is unreal (Berkeley)
 4. Everything is conscious (panpsychism)
5. Strictly speaking, there are no objects any more (Heidegger)

PART II: Sincerity, Truth, Philosophy

Saturdays 10.00–11.30am from November 4th

1. Sincerity is impossible (Sartre)
 2. ‘There is nothing outside the text’ (Derrida)
 3. There is no such thing as society (Thatcher – and nominalism)
 4. ‘Truth is what your contemporaries let you get away with’ (Rorty)
5. ‘If one tried to advance theses in philosophy, it would never be possible to debate them, because everyone would agree to them’ (Wittgenstein)

There is no one book recommended to accompany the course. A list of optional reading will be provided after each session. For booking and more information, please contact Wivenhoe Bookshop (01206 824050; wiven.book@zetnet.co.uk; 23 High Street, Wivenhoe, CO7 9BE).