

Philosophy Group @ Ipswich Institute

Singer, *Hegel*



This is a five-week autumn course that will be held at the Institute. The course is a reading group.

The book and its subject. The book is *Hegel: A Very Short Introduction* by the contemporary Australian philosopher Peter Singer. There are a couple of editions, but to my knowledge they differ little; so, any edition will do. The book is published by Oxford University Press (originally in 1983). It is inexpensive; and it is informed, thoughtful, critical and wonderfully lucid. A much earlier and much longer book about Hegel, called *The Secret of Hegel* (and by Scottish philosopher J. H. Stirling), generated the sardonic comment that the secret had been well kept. Not so here: Singer illuminates an important but obscure philosopher who has influenced, in one way or another, just about everyone. According to Michel Foucault, Hegel stands waiting at the end of every road – even those roads that we take in order to avoid him. Singer’s book treats Hegel’s ideas on history, freedom, community, mind and world, logic and dialectic.

Procedure. Each week we will tackle some twenty to thirty pages. The idea is that participants read the relevant pages before the session and that in the session we discuss those pages.

In our first week we will discuss the preface to the book and its first two chapters.

TUTOR	Dr Nicholas Joll
DATES	<i>September 23rd – October 21st, 2021.</i> (Five sessions.)
DAY & TIME	<i>Thursdays, 2 – 4pm</i> (with a break in the middle of each session)
VENUE	Ipswich Institute
COST	<i>[To be determined]</i>