



WANGARATTA
UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS – SEMESTER 1 2023

New Courses

Curious About Science

How many drops of water can you fit on a 5 cent coin? Try this and other activities to help you understand a range of science concepts. Some will be fun to enjoy with your grandchildren.

Cryptic Crosswords

Cryptic Crosswords explores the magic of the English language – how words can have so many meanings and how we can interpret them when we read the clues. This is a class for those who want to start doing cryptic crosswords and those continuing. We will begin with the basic strategies and expand as we go along, solving crosswords as a group for fun and learning.

Philosophy

Philosophy wants to answer the big questions of life. We will look at some of the useful answers the various schools of philosophy have come up with. We will meander through various cities and their famous architecture, art and culture as they illustrate the issues that the philosophers dealt with. We will start with Epicurus. What was his answer to “What is a good life?” Was it fine food and wine? Or was it plain wine, cheese and bread shared with friends in a garden? What more could one want?

To be held at the North Eastern Hotel with lunch afterwards an option. There is a lunch menu with meals less than \$15 and drinks at bar prices.

Ever Wanted to try Writing?

If you can hold a pen or use a computer or a laptop, you can write. We will explore writing biographies and autobiographies, writing for children, writing a novel and even “Where do I start?” The group will be guided by the participants and the specifics they are seeking. Topics covered will include ideas, the writing process, characters, genres, planning, maintaining flow, continuity and interest. As well, if you choose, to share, read and edit your own work.

The History of First Nations

First Nations is a course which takes us from 70,000 years ago to today. It gives the history of the Australian Indigenous people from the Day of Creation, to the landing of Captain Cook and ends with the Uluru Statement from the Heart. As an elder said in a Cultural Training workshop “You can't understand the current position if you don't know what happened before”. Videos showcasing the Indigenous voice, such as *First Australians*, directed by Rachel Perkins, and excerpts from *Australian History that you were never taught* by Jim Poulter, are at the core of the program. Recommended reading is *Dark Emu* by Bruce Pascoe. The course will be limited to 20 participants.

Book Circle

No one is required to read anything specific but participants, in turn, bring something they have read and enjoyed and tell the group about it. The tutor provides a few extras to encourage wider reading and after each session sends out a list of books discussed with brief reviews.

Continuing Courses open to new members

What Is Economics About?

Economics (and economists) can be long winded, boring and complex. But this course aims to expose the economics in issues that affect our daily lives, our finances and our households.

We will discuss issues in lay terms and then the economic principles and concepts relevant to them will be introduced.

The course is highly interactive and flexible – its content will be moulded to fit the interests and needs of the participants. Here are some of the topics that can be discussed:

- Is immigration good for the economy?
- Is it OK for foreign interests to acquire Australian companies and farmland?
- Should we believe numbers, are some fake?
- Why can't economists accurately predict what will happen with the economy and share prices?

Beginners Italian

The course will assume no prior knowledge of Italian. It will be interactive and focus on conversation. Basic grammar will be dealt with incidentally where relevant. Some topics to be included are greetings, family, weather and pastimes/hobbies. Holidays, travel and related topics – at a restaurant, museum, bus/train station will also be included. There may be the option of purchasing a small text depending on the preferences of the group. Access to interactive sites will be a useful tool for completing follow up work at home. Participants who don't have a device can "buddy up" with someone who does.

Hot Topics

As the name implies Hot Topics is focused on any current affair from international to more local topics of interest. Cuttings from newspapers are often used to highlight a particular subject of interest. It can be light hearted, funny or more serious in nature. At all times the group is friendly, and respectful with lots of laughs sprinkled throughout the session. If you are considering becoming a member, give Hot Topics a go.

Literature

Literature includes images as well as text. In addition to novels, plays, films, poems there are TV shows, documentaries, feature films and even advertisements to be "read" and assessed for the stories they tell and the way they are constructed. The topics for each semester are chosen by the course participants so, whatever your taste in literature it is likely to be catered for and you may be surprised by new, exciting ideas.

The Garden Plot

Do you love gardens and gardening? Join us for interactive sessions with guest speakers, plant swap days and field trips. Suitable for new or experienced gardeners and anyone who just wants to have fun in a relaxed atmosphere.

Share Market Discussion Group (Zoom)

A monthly discussion of share market stocks, subjects and issues. Some preparation may be required.

Continuing Language Courses requiring some previous knowledge.

Talk French!

This course offers cultural input alongside language skills for people who have some experience of French. There is a variety of teaching methods including speaking, listening, reading and writing exercises. Students will need to do some prep in between sessions and to purchase a set text called "Easy French" by Daynes and Irving from Edgars for \$14.00

Buongiorno Italia

This is for all who love the Italian language and for those who think they may travel to Italy. It is an ongoing course so if you are interested in joining the class it is essential you have some knowledge of the Italian language. Basic grammar skills will be included in each session. Participants must be prepared to revise and prepare for each session. Please enquire for vacancies.

Latin (Zoom)

After two years we have covered most aspects of Latin grammar and are applying our knowledge to translation of actual texts. If you have some background in Latin you may like to join us in deciphering the meaning of ancient and medieval documents, poetry, history and stories.

Conversing in French

This course is for students who have some knowledge of French and wish to increase their comprehension of spoken French and their ability to express themselves in French. The grammar studied is specifically chosen to support the topics being used in directed conversations. There are no vacancies in this course at present.

For more information:

u3awangaratta@gmail.com

0412 944 644

Find us on Facebook