



Institute of Continuing Education

## Socrates, Plato and Aristotle

**Start date** 5 February 2016 **End date** 7 February 2016

**Venue** Madingley Hall  
Madingley  
Cambridge

**Tutor** Dr. Karim Esmail **Course code** 1516NRX101

**Director of Programmes** Emma Jennings

**For further information on this course, please contact** Linda Fisher, Academic Programme Manager on 01223 746218  
Liz Deacon, Programme Administrator on 01223 746227

**To book** See: [www.ice.cam.ac.uk](http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk) or telephone 01223 746262

---

### Tutor biography

Karim Esmail BA MPhil MPhil PhD

Educated at Oxford, Cambridge, London, and Harvard.

Awarded a British Academy Studentship.

Winner of the Gregg Bury Prize, Cambridge.

Formerly, Research Fellow, Oxford and Visiting Fellow, Harvard and Burney Student, Cambridge.

Karim has published internationally and currently lectures at Oxford and Cambridge.

---

## Course programme

---

### Friday

Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

19:00	Dinner
20:30 – 22:00	<b>Introduction; Socrates</b>
22:00	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

### Saturday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	<b>Plato</b>
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	<b>Plato</b>
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Free
16:00	Tea
16:30 – 18:00	<b>Plato</b>
18:00 – 18:30	Free
18:30	Dinner
20:00 – 21:30	<b>Aristotle</b>
21:30	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

### Sunday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	<b>Aristotle</b>
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	<b>Aristotle</b>
12:45	Lunch

**The course will disperse after lunch**

---

## Course syllabus

---

### Aims:

- To provide an understanding of some of the key elements in the thought of Socrates and in the thought, in particular, of Plato and Aristotle.
- To enable students to *begin* to engage critically with their thought.

### Content:

The greatest of ancient Greek philosophers are Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. This series of seminars is an introduction to some of the key elements in their thought.

In the first seminar, there is a brief introduction to philosophy. This is followed by a consideration of Socratic method and Socrates' discussion of ethics.

In the second and third and fourth seminars, it considers Plato on the soul and its immortality in the *Phaedo* and (in particular) Plato on the perfectly just city-state in the *Republic* (471c ff.). (The consideration of the latter includes a consideration of Plato on the Philosopher King and the Forms and the Form of the Good.)

In the fifth and sixth and seventh seminars, it considers Aristotle on among other things language and logic in the *Organon* and on change and cause in the *Physics* and on "happiness" in the *Nichomachean Ethics*.

### Presentation of the course:

Lectures and discussion.

### Outcomes:

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should have:

- An understanding of some of the key elements in the thought of Socrates and in the thought, in particular, of Plato and Aristotle.
- And be able to *begin* to engage critically with their thought.

---

## Reading and resources list

---

Listed below are a number of texts that might be of interest for future reference, but do not need to be bought (or consulted) for the course.

---

Author	Title	Publisher and date
--------	-------	--------------------

*A book for the whole seminar series*

Kenny, A.,	<i>A New History of Western Philosophy</i>	Oxford, 2012
------------	--	--------------

*Other useful books*

Guthrie, W.K.C.,	<i>A History of Greek Philosophy</i>	Cambridge, 1962,1965
------------------	--------------------------------------	----------------------

Irwin, T.H.,	<i>Classical Thought</i>	Oxford, 1989
--------------	--------------------------	--------------

Taylor, C.C.W., et al,	<i>Greek Philosophers</i>	Oxford, 1999
------------------------	---------------------------	--------------