

MATURE ADULTS LEARNING ASSOC.

ROCKINGHAM BRANCH

TERM 4 – SEMESTER 2 – 2021

Dates held on 13TH, 20TH AND 27TH OCTOBER, 3RD AND 10TH NOVEMBER

All courses held at Rockingham Central Library – Dixon Rd, Rockingham

SYNOPSIS of COURSES

Compiled by Course Convenor – Esther Grogan

9.30am – 11.00 - A/Professor Alexey Muraviev

Title: Threats and Challenges to International Security Today and Tomorrow: Implications for Australia.

Abstract: this lecture series will provide an overview of the current and emerging threats and challenges that affect and will affect international threat environment. They include threats of globalised terrorism and cyber threats; state to state competition and the arms race; alliances (ANZUS, NATO, Russia-China possible alliance); environmental and health threats; implications for Australia and our national security.

Dr Alexey D Muraviev – Associate Professor of National Security and Strategic Studies School of Media, Creative Arts and Social Inquiry – Curtin University .

11.30 am – 1.00 pm - Meera FINNIGAN - Title - Core Ideas of Philosophy

On this five-week course we will explore some big ideas of philosophy that have had relevance for thousands of years of intellectual thought. What does it mean to be human? What is happiness? What is truth? What if anything can humans know for certain? How should we treat non-human animals, the environment? The consideration of these ideas is sure to spark interesting discussion, so if you enjoy engaging in thoughtful discourse, please join us for this exploration of diverse and enthralling philosophical ideas.

Meera Finnigan has a Master's Philosophy, now semi- retired from academia and enjoying bringing critical thinking to community education

11.30 to 1.00 pm. Helen ILES - Title Polish, Present an Publish

This workshop takes you through the editing techniques that tighten your prose and polishes your words to make your writing shine. 1. The Editing process – 2 week course

2. Book and Covers Design – 2 week course

3. The Self-Publishing Process – 1 week.

Helen Iles is an award- winning author; a poet; editor; manuscript assessor; writing coach and publisher with over 20 years in the industry, who guides writers through the writing process and onto publishing their fiction and non- fiction stories.

1.30-3.00 - Dr Christopher MEREDITH – Title DNA Detectives Wear Many Hats

To catch criminals, serial killers and sexual predators, DNA Detectives wear forensic hats; when dealing with mass disaster victims and paternity issues, they don genealogical hats; to solve mysteries about our ancestors, they put on anthropological hats, and when tracking down human disease genes, they reach for medical genetic hats. This course describes how decoding messages in human DNA solved twenty-four very different cases, including:

- (i) catching the Spermator and the Golden State Killer.
- (ii) the identification of Ned Kelly's bones and those of the Titanic's *'Our Babe'*
- (iii) answering anthropological questions like, *'Was Anna Anderson really Anastasia Romanov?'* or *'Did your father have Genghis Khan's Y chromosome?'*
- (iv) discovering human disease genes in Western Australian families, and
- (v) saving lives with gene-targeted cancer therapies. We conclude by explaining how DNA Detectives wearing epigenetic hats, discovered the amazing fact that identical twins are actually *'identically different'* in the way they express their genes, so much so they nearly always die from different causes. The implications of this discovery for the world's longest running biological debate, *Nature vs. Nurture*, are enormous, as they are for all of us.

Dr Chris Meredith is a retired School Teacher (9 years) and Academic (36 years). He was the Foundation Course Coordinator of a degree in Human Biology at ECU, the Chief Examiner for TEE Human Biology (5 years), won the Vice Chancellor's Teaching Excellence Award (ECU) and was a former Honorary Research Fellow at the Australian Neuromuscular Research Institute .

1.30-3.00_- Dr Michael Prince Title: Social Justice

In this series of five lectures, we explore the concept of 'social justice' as we currently seem to make sense out of it. We will discuss how we tend to focus most often on issues of representation in terms of separate categories like 'race', 'gender' and 'sexuality', and less so on how these categories might intersect with each other in complicated ways in real people's lived experiences. We will also discuss the often-overlooked issue of distribution of wealth in terms of 'class'. Along the way, we will investigate topics such as the recognition of First Australians in the Constitution, Queer theory and what it tells us about same-sex marriage;, something called 'homonationalism' and its relationship to Trumpism and the idea of 'western civilization', and how we think about Islam and asylum seekers. A stimulating course for the thinker and questioner.

Dr Prince was the Academic Chair of Murdoch's Australia Indigenous studies program for the past 12 years. He has taught on a wide range of issues and topics relating to Australian political history, indigenous popular culture social justice and the intersections of Indigenous and Western philosophies of human /nature relationships.