

# MELBOURNE FREE UNIVERSITY



## PHILOSOPHY AND THE DIVINE: GOD IN WESTERN THOUGHT

God plays an important and fundamental role in many people's lives. But what sort of role has God played in philosophy? How have philosophers understood notions of God and how have they used notions of God to make sense of the world and of ourselves? And why do so many philosophers today have no role for God in their understanding of the world? In this course, we will take a brief look at different perspectives on God through the ages, starting with Ancient Greece, through to the Medieval scholastic period, Enlightenment rationalism and empiricism, post-Enlightenment existentialism and today's naturalist worldview. This course offers a fascinating journey through Western philosophical thought as well as clarifying and provoking ideas about God, ourselves and our world.

### WEEK 1: 28.8.14

THE ANCIENTS: SOCRATES, PLATO AND ARISTOTLE  
Dominic Lenzi (Melb Uni)

### WEEK 2: 4.9.14

THE SCHOLASTICS: AUGUSTINE, ABELARD AND AQUINAS  
John Fox (La Trobe)

### WEEK 3: 11.9.14

THE RATIONALISTS: DESCARTES AND SPINOZA  
Tessa Jones (Monash)

### WEEK 4: 18.9.14

THE EMPIRICISTS: BERKELEY AND HUME  
Nik Alksnis and Ross Pain (La Trobe)

### WEEK 5: 25.9.14

THE EXISTENTIAL TURN: NIETZSCHE AND FRENCH EXISTENTIALISM  
Jack Reynolds and Ricky Sebold (Deakin/La Trobe)

### WEEK 6: 2.10.14

TODAY: NATURALISM AND THE NEW ATHEISM  
Ricky Sebold (La Trobe)



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**DAY AND TIME:** Thursdays, 6.30 - 8.30pm

**LOCATION:** The Alderman (upstairs)  
134 Lygon St East Brunswick

**FORMAT:** 45 minute presentation  
45 minute open discussion