

## OLLI at DU West Syllabus – Spring 2024

*A Potpourri of Philosophers*

8 weeks – Online

Facilitator: Dan Putman

I will have handouts for each class. Douglas Soccio's introductory philosophy text, *Archetypes of Wisdom*, covers a few of the people we will be looking at. It has been through many editions and you can get early editions cheaply online. Soccio's book is probably the most readable introductory philosophy text on the market but for this class it covers less material than in my other OLLI courses.

**Week 1.** How much does history dominate our individual lives?

- a. G.W.F. Hegel
- b. Soren Kierkegaard

Handout on Kierkegaard

**Week 2.** What drives human life?

- a. Arthur Schopenhauer – survival and procreation
- b. Friedrich Nietzsche - power

Handout on Nietzsche

**Week 3.** The psychologist as philosopher

- a. Erich Fromm
- b. Rollo May
- c. Abraham Maslow

Handouts on Fromm and May

**Week 4.** What is virtue in the modern world?

- a. The foundation in Aristotle
- b. Alasdair MacIntyre
- c. Issues involving courage

Handout on Virtue Ethics

**Week 5.** The Stoics –

“So when someone irritates you be aware that what irritates you is your own belief.”

Handout on Epictetus

**Week 6.** The Problem of Consciousness

Handout on Consciousness

**Week 7.** Free will and determinism  
Handout on Free Will

**Week 8.** The Phenomenon of Religion  
a. Why do we have organized religions?  
b. Religion as experience – Zen Buddhism  
Handout on Zen