Short *Courses*
2024

Ollscoil na Gaillimhe — University of Galway

Foghlaim & Forbairt Ghairmiúil d'Aosaigh

Adult Learning & Professional Development

Commencing week of 12th February

University of Galway.ie

Short Courses 2024

The Centre for Adult Learning & Professional Development continues to offer its Short Courses Series commencing the week of February 12th 2024. Courses will be delivered on campus or online via Zoom and consist of 8 weeks of lectures in a number of general interest areas including Languages, Technology, Sustainability, Poetry and many more.

These courses are particularly suitable for candidates who have never had an opportunity to study a particular subject area before and wish to gain a deeper insight into a discipline that already interests them. Whatever your motivation, you are sure to find out more about your subject area and also experience the world of lifelong learning.

You are encouraged to browse through the short courses on offer and to contact the Centre if you require any further details.

Short Course List

Mondays
- An Introduction to the History of Western Philosophy (Classroom)

Tuesdays
- Writing for the Internet (Online)
- Foundations of Data Visualization: A Practical Guide for Beginners (Online)
- Conscious Choices for Sustainable Living (Classroom)
- Brush up your Spanish (Online)

Wednesdays
- Renewable Energy Technologies: Principles, Applications, and Uses (Online)
- Beginners Italian (Online)
- Brush up your German (Online)

Thursdays
- Understanding the Earth's Goldilocks climate – and the changes that threaten it (Classroom)
- Introduction to Mandarin Chinese (Online)
- The Practice of Poetry (Classroom)

Course Details

Course Delivery

The courses will be delivered on-campus at the University of Galway, room venues will be provided on course registration. A small selection of courses will be delivered online via ZOOM through a combination of:

- Live, online classes and an opportunity to engage with your lecturer and fellow students.

- Access links will be emailed to course participants before the course start date.

Cancellations/Refunds

Our courses require a minimum number of enrolments. Courses that do not reach this quota will be cancelled. Applicants will be offered an alternative course or will be refunded the course fee.

To avoid not being able to enrol on a course through oversubscription or cancellation, please apply as early as possible.

Refunds are only available if we have to cancel a course. It is in this regard that you are required to inform yourself of the course content before enrolment.

Course Fee: €145 per course

Duration: Each short course runs for 8 weeks from 7- 9pm each evening, starting the week of 12th February

How to Apply: Click on the QR code and select the REGISTER NOW button to make your application.

Closing date: 7th February

Technology

Writing for the Internet - Online

Tuesday: Dr. Mary McGill

Digital technologies have transformed how human beings communicate. In the 21st century, it has never been easier to broadcast our thoughts and share our work. But doing so effectively, in a way that engages audiences and makes an impact, has become increasingly challenging as online environments become more crowded and fragmented.

For many of us, having an online profile is an essential part of our professional lives. This course is for those seeking to become more effective online communicators. From setting up a newsletter for your business to the finer points of podcast scripting, the course will explore the do's and don'ts of online writing, including how to communicate complex ideas, how to reach target audiences, and how to navigate the attention economy.

At a time when we have all become publishers thanks to digital technology, Writing for the Internet will provide practical and theoretical lessons in online communication and how best to harness its potential.

Foundations of Data Visualization: A Practical Guide for Beginners - Online

Tuesday: Dr. Heike Vornhagen

Embark on a transformative journey into the world of data visualization with our beginner-friendly course designed for adults. In this comprehensive program, participants will delve into the fundamental principles of data visualization, gaining a solid theoretical foundation to understand the art and science behind transforming complex information into compelling visuals.

The course seamlessly blends theory with hands-on practice, ensuring a well-rounded learning experience. Through engaging modules, participants will explore the importance of effective storytelling with data, principles of design, and the role of colour and typography in conveying meaningful insights.

Practical sessions will empower participants to apply their newfound knowledge using popular data visualization tools, fostering a dynamic and interactive learning environment. Whether you're a professional looking to enhance your skills or a beginner curious about the world of data, this course offers a structured and accessible approach to mastering the art of data visualization. Join us and unlock the potential to communicate insights with impact through visually compelling narratives.

Sustainability

Renewable Energy Technologies: Principles, Applications and Uses - Online

Wednesday: Dr. Muhammad Usman Farid

Energy and the environment are one of the global issues in this era. Environmental degradation and recent trends of climate change specifically due to consumption of fossil fuels has become a critical challenge for the whole world. Adoption of renewable energy systems such as solar, wind, geothermal, bioenergy etc. to fulfil energy needs is found to be sustainable approach to mitigate environmental impacts.
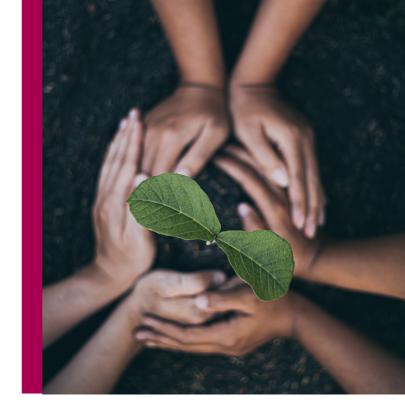
For best adoption and utilization of such techniques, it is important to understand the approach and conversion methodologies of such alternative energy systems. This course provides an insight to different renewable energy techniques, their conversion principles and practical applications in different daily life activities.

Conscious Choices for Sustainable Living - Classroom

Tuesday: Dr. Tania Palmeiro Sanchez

In this short course, you'll dive into the core principles of sustainability, focusing on tangible actions and strategies to reduce your environmental impact. We'll cover a range of topics through interactive sessions, discussions, and real-life examples to gain a deeper understanding of how individual choices contribute to global sustainability. You'll walk away equipped with practical tools and knowledge to make informed decisions, whether it's about energy consumption, waste reduction, or engaging in eco-friendly initiatives.

Half of the class will be about the science behind the evidence to boost thought-provoking discussions and the second half will be based on case studies and hands-on activities. The main objective of the course is to empower you to become an agent of positive change and embrace a more sustainable lifestyle while shaping a greener, more equitable world for generations to come.

Understanding the Earth's Goldilocks climate – and the changes that threaten it - Classroom

Thursday: Dr. Enda O'Brien

Why does the Earth have the temperature, rain, and wind distributions that it has, given the composition of its shallow atmosphere on a rotating sphere? What controls the overall temperature of the earth? Why does temperature in the atmosphere change with height and with latitude the way it does (along with the seasons and time of day)? Why are there jet streams and what controls how strongly they blow?Why are there prevailing surface westerly winds at some latitudes and easterlies at others? How does the "greenhouse effect" work and what are its fingerprints?

This course answers all those questions using only basic physical principles, such as conservation of energy and conservation of angular momentum – and simple schematic diagrams.The same principles also explain the climate on other planets (e.g., Venus and Jupiter) and planetary moons (e.g., Titan). The course starts by treating the earth as a single point in space, and gradually adds complexity until it reaches the full three-dimensional richness of a climate system consisting of the atmosphere, ocean, land, and ice, on a rotating sphere.The focus is on conceptual understanding. No prior mathematical or physical knowledge is required.

Languages

Introduction to Mandarin Chinese - Online

Thursday: Yuanyuan Tang & Yue Zhao

The Mandarin Chinese Course is to gradually develop learners' ability to use Chinese through the study of its structure, functions, and related cultural knowledge, as well as the training in listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. The course will cultivate learners' intercultural communicative skills and raise their multicultural awareness, and at the same time help learners master some strategies for learning the Mandarin Chinese language and increase their interest in learning the language.

Beginners' Italian - Online

Wednesday: Michela Sereni

Participants in the Beginner Italian course will acquire a foundational understanding of the Italian language, focusing on essential vocabulary, basic grammar structures, and conversational skills. By the end of the program, students will be able to introduce themselves, engage in simple everyday conversations, and navigate common real-life situations in Italian. This course aims to provide a solid linguistic foundation for further language exploration and cultural understanding.

Brush up your German - Online

Wednesdays: Julia Weiss

Brush up your Spanish - Online

Tuesdays: Raquel Rodriguez-Fernandez

Brush up your language classes are for you If you have already studied the language previously and want to improve your communicative skills, expand your vocabulary, and want to learn and talk about the country's lifestyle, culture, history, politics, literature, art or music.

Each week will focus on a different topic that you will prepare beforehand. A variety of tasks will be employed to revise and consolidate your prior knowledge of the language and each lesson incorporates sufficient time for feedback on grammar and pronunciation.

These short courses offer you an opportunity to engage with your lecturer and fellow students in an informal, relaxed setting conducive to language learning.

For information on language levels, check out the following guide:

Common European Framework of Reference for languages

https://www.coe.int/en/web/common-european-framework-reference-languages/level-descriptions

Poetry

Philosophy

The Practice of Poetry - Classroom

Thursday: Dr Rachel Coventry

This short course will combine workshopping with a detailed consideration of the craft. Using examples from contemporary poetry, we will examine how form, sound, and meaning combine to make a poem.

Participants will be given weekly prompts based on the topics covered in class. In this context, practice extends to submitting work for publication and performing at readings. We will consider what it means to present one's work in 2024.

The course will culminate with a group reading. This class is suitable for all levels, from beginners to those who have already begun publishing in journals and those working towards a first collection.

An Introduction to the History of Western Philosophy - Classroom

Monday: Dr. Rachel Coventry

How does the history of philosophy inform how we think today? This course will illuminate critical figures and movements from the ancient Greeks to Existentialism. Each week will focus on a separate figure/or movement in Western Philosophy, including Plato, Descartes, Kant, and Nietzsche, allowing for discussion on how these ideas ground the Western consciousness and are still evident today.

We will consider how to read philosophy and engage in reading exercises designed to open up the world of philosophical texts. The course is a beginner-level course, and no previous knowledge of philosophy is required.

REGISTER NOW