

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Beginning in France in the mid seventies the U3A movement has now spread to most countries and has many hundreds of thousands of members.

U3A is a response to the idea that human life is divided into three periods: firstly, childhood and schooling; secondly, child rearing and work; and thirdly, retirement.

The third age is seen to provide the greatest opportunities for learning and understanding because it is during this period of retirement that the idea of a university as a community of those who seek greater understanding through learning can be put into practice.

The unique characteristics of U3A

- Learning topics are selected by the members
- In depth courses are planned by members
- Opportunities for reading, research and discussion are provided
- Presenters/facilitors are usually members of the groups
- The company of others who enjoy learning is ensured
- The atmosphere for learning is informal and friendly
- There are no examinations
- There are no compulsory activities
- Courses take place during daylight hours
- Costs are minimal and within reach of everybody

The U3A Dunedin Charitable Trust has recently entered into a partnership with the University of Otago which will enhance their shared community of interest by continuing to provide a programme of non-credit educational courses while further utilising the expertise and resources of the University.

ADMINISTRATION

FREEDOM, RELIGION AND SPIRIT

Dates: March 3 to April 21

Time: 10 am - noon

Fee: \$40

Tea and coffee provided

Enrolments -- limited to 50

You are able to enrol in more than one programme (subject to numbers). If you wish to enrol for more than one programme, you *must indicate your choice* on the Enrolment Form.

To be received on or before **mid-day**

Wednesday February 11. After the draw those who were unsuccessful will be notified by February 20.

Venue

Lecture Room, Salmond Hall, Knox Street

Course Organiser

Jenny Laws (467 9890)

Assistant

Bill George (465 7806)

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U3A

Dunedin Charitable Trust

A LEARNING OPTION FOR THE RETIRED

in association with



FREEDOM, RELIGION AND SPIRIT

March 3 to April 21 2004

Rodgers & Associates
Law Practice

FREEDOM, RELIGION AND SPIRIT

1st choice ___ 2nd choice ___ 3rd choice ___

Please tick appropriate spaces.

First Name for Name Tag: _____

Surname: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Payment

Course Fee: \$40

Cheques payable to Rodgers and Associates

Please complete and return to:

U3A

Rodgers and Associates

PO Box 6200

Dunedin North

on or before noon

Wednesday February 11 2004.

FREEDOM, RELIGION AND SPIRIT

The Programme

Religions seek to relate the human spirit to a cosmic world of the spirit, interpreted in many different forms of religion. Often they have restricted or suppressed human freedoms; but they have also been sources of creative freedom for new insights, criticism and change.

Today we have the opportunity to study and explore this fascinating variety of religions. We ourselves have an unprecedented freedom to follow, reject, reform or select from these religions.

This course focuses on key types of religion, ranging from small tribal or primal cultures to ancient empires and civilizations and to the major world-wide religions. At each stage these can be related to experiences still relevant in today's world. As a guiding thread we look to the spiritual freedom which inspires both individuals and established traditions, and now proliferates in new mixtures in the "spirituality revolution" of our time.

Visual material will help to illustrate these concepts. Questions and discussion will be welcome from all participants.

Course Presenter: Albert Moore

RETAIN THIS PORTION -- remember your 1st choice

FREEDOM, RELIGION AND SPIRIT

LECTURE PROGRAMME 2004

Wednesdays 10 am - noon

Venue: Lecture Room, Salmond Hall

- March 3 **Primal Cultures and Religions.** Freedom and Spirit experienced in belonging to a close community.
- March 10 **Ancient Empires and Religions: Persian Zoroastrianism.** Religion of moral choice, dualism of good and evil.
- March 17 **Hebrew Prophets** proclaiming call to righteousness in present from God of creation, judgement and hope for future.
- March 24 **"Abrahamic Religions".** Judaism, Christianity, Islam common basis of monotheism, prayer, prophecy, authoritative holy book.
- March 31 **Hindu Tradition** including diverse gods, rituals and philosophies.
- April 7 **Buddhism** emerging from ancient India to become pan-Asian religion of enlightenment.
- April 14 **Western Modernity and Secular Enlightenment,** 18th - 20th centuries setting aside authority of prophet and guru.
- April 21 **Spirituality Revolution?** Postmodernity emphasizing change, relativism and individual choice freed for the "spiritual marketplace". Will the 21st century be an "age of the Spirit"?