



# 2020 Summer Program

## Program offering:

- \*Academic extension: learn how to read and think at a university level
- \*Immersion into critical thought
- \*Build on debate, communication and presentation skills
- \*Introduction to the kind of thinking a future degree in western civilisation might offer

## Educational approach:

Students will be immersed in sessions using the **Socratic method**, named after the Classical Greek philosopher Socrates.

The Socratic method is a teaching approach that encourages students to engage in cooperative and critical conversations. Through argumentative dialogue, students scrutinize the underlying suppositions of their positions and those of their peers, to evaluate their relationship with other beliefs and those of the book or topic under discussion and arrive at a clearer picture of the truth.

The Foundation for Critical Thinking declares the Socratic method is *“still the most powerful teaching tactic for fostering critical thinking”*.

## Day 1

Time	Activity
13.30	Bus pick up
15.00	Bus arrives at SCTC
15.30 – 16.30	Check-in and registration - arrival afternoon tea
16.30 – 17.30	<b>Welcome and Introduction</b>  Title - <b>What is the West?</b>  <i>“The West has a civilisation with distinctive features and inheritances (although some of these derive from its closest neighbours)....”</i>  <i>“These include Homer and Dante, Shakespeare and Goethe, Jane Austen and Joan of Arc, Plato and NATO, Beethoven and Bartok, Leonardo and Picasso, the Parthenon and the Pantheon, Napoleon and Julius Caesar, Botticelli’s Venus and the Mona Lisa, the Roman empire and Christianity, the Enlightenment and its revolutionary American, French, industrial and scientific heirs, democracy and human rights.”</i>

	<p style="text-align: right;"><i>An Education Manifesto for Western Civ</i> Prof Simon Haines</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“The Western cultural tradition, it’s not perfect, no tradition is, but essentially it’s made us who we are, it’s where we came from.”</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>The Hon John Howard OM AC</i></p>
17.00 - 18.30	<p><b>Ice breaker activities</b></p> <p>The students will participate in some fun and informal activities to help them get to know each other and feel more comfortable in engaging in the sessions over the coming days.</p>
18.30 - 20.00	Dinner – BBQ
20.00 – 22.00	Reading text – Plato, <i>The Apology</i>

## Day 2

7.30 – 8.30	Breakfast
8.30 – 8.45	<b>Introduction to the program</b>
8.45 – 10.15	<p><b>Opening conversation – Plato, <i>The Apology</i></b></p> <p>Our esteemed panel will introduce <i>The Apology</i> during a “fishbowl”* conversation. The students will then break into small groups (5-8 each) to engage in a moderated discussion with their peers. There will be one tutor allocated to each group.</p> <p>Participants will be asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• participate in the dialogue</li> <li>• engage in respectful listening and debating</li> <li>• support comments with examples where possible</li> <li>• be curious</li> </ul> <p>“The difficulty, my friends, is not in avoiding death, but in avoiding unrighteousness; for that runs faster than death.” — <b>Socrates in Plato’s <i>Apology</i></b></p> <p>“the unexamined life is not worth living” — <b>Socrates in Plato’s <i>Apology</i></b></p> <p>“One thing only I know, and that is that I know nothing’.” — <b>Socrates in Plato’s <i>Apology</i></b></p>
10.45 – 11.15	Morning tea

11.15 – 13.15	<p><b>Activity</b></p> <p>This is an activity that involves individuals thinking outside the square as well as working together as a team to solve the big question...."What is the Matrix?"</p> <p>Working under the pressure of time, teams of students compete to solve cryptic clues which lead them to life size problem solving tasks at different locations around the conference centre.</p>
13.15 – 14.15	Lunch
14.15 – 15.30	<p><b>Community of Inquiry</b></p> <p>Students will be divided into small groups (5-8 in each) and provided with a philosophical question that they must discuss/debate using the Socratic method. This introductory session will be broken into to two stages focusing on two different questions. Each group will be assigned a tutor who will encourage the students to acknowledge contradictions, recreate inaccurate or unfinished ideas and critically determine necessary thought.</p>
15.30 -16.00	Afternoon Tea
16.00 – 17.00	<p><b>Community of Inquiry (cont)</b></p> <p>The third part of the Community of Inquiry will pose a greater challenge to the students where they will be required to further embrace the skills practiced before afternoon tea.</p>
17.00 – 19.00	Free time
19.00 – 21.30	Dinner
21.30 – 22.30	Reading text ( <i>The Tempest</i> , selected passages) and lights out

### Day 3

7.30 – 8.30	Breakfast
8.30 - 8.45	Review of day one
8.45 - 10.30	<p><b>Open conversation – <i>The Tempest</i></b></p> <p>This session will again begin with the fishbowl conversation and be followed by small group discussions.</p> <p>A selection of passages from <i>The Tempest</i> will be discussed.</p>
10.30 – 11.00	Morning tea
11.00 – 13.00	<p><b><i>The Tempest</i> interactive workshop</b></p> <p>This session will provide a rich experience for students who will investigate Shakespeare's play, world, characters and language through action. Professional actors and directors will help the students learn through doing and understanding, engaging in fresh and highly accessible ways.</p>

13.00 – 14.00	Lunch
14.00 – 14.45	<p><b>Meet the Board</b></p> <p>Students will have the unique opportunity to engage with political and business leaders and talented academics.</p> <p>The Ramsay Centre board representatives will share stories of their own journeys to success and their vision for the planned BA in Western Civilisation. They will speak of the importance of the study of the humanities and the benefits acquired.</p>
14.45 – 15.30	<p><b>Transferable skills for business</b></p> <p>A prominent business person will present to the students about how the study of the humanities provided opportunities for their career.</p>
15.30 – 16.00	<b>Afternoon tea and re-cap of the two days and group discussion</b>
16.00	<b>Close of Summer Program</b>

\**Fishbowl conversation* – the panel will be seated at the front of the room discussing the topic. The audience outside the fishbowl listen in on the conversation.