

The VIU Philosophy Department and Vancouver Island Regional Library proudly present:

THE PHILOSOPHERS' CAFÉ

Come join us at the Philosophers' Café – a public forum for debate. Each Café is on a different topic, briefly introduced by a knowledgeable presenter and opened to the floor for general discussion. Pose questions, present arguments, hear opposing viewpoints, and join in on the fun as we discuss tricky issues, theories, concepts and more!



FALL LINEUP

WHEN INTERNATIONAL CRISIS STRIKES: IS IT ALWAYS GOOD TO HELP OUT?

Offering international assistance to countries in times of need is, in theory, both necessary and effective. In practice, however, does it work, and if so, how? Michael Tripp, retired VIU professor, offers insights into this question from his research experience in post-Soviet Russia.

Dr. Tripp has taught Geography at VIU, UVic and San Francisco State University, focusing his research on Eastern Europe and Russia. Since the early 1990s, he has served as a consultant for the World Bank, USAID, CIDA, and other public and private entities engaged in post-Soviet Russia.

Wednesday, Oct. 18th, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Nanaimo Harbourfront Library
90 Commercial Street
Bastion Parkade (Skinner & Bastion) – free parking after 5:00

HOW FAR SHOULD WE GO TO SAVE A LIFE?

Valery Spiridonov wants to be the first human to have his head transplanted onto a cadaver body, before his rare degenerative disease kills him. Should we do everything possible to save a human life, or are some lifesaving interventions going too far? How should we balance the value of individual lives, freedom of choice, and fair access when expensive, cutting-edge treatments can't be available for everyone? When is enough, enough? Laura Shanner, consultant and researcher in health care ethics, will speak to this topic.

Dr. Shanner has served as an expert consultant for several policy development committees for Health Canada. She has taught biomedical ethics for over 20 years in the US and Canada (including at VIU), and has published many journal articles and book chapters spanning the fields of bioethics, women's studies, law, comparative theology, and experimental sciences.

Wednesday, Nov. 22nd, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Nanaimo Harbourfront Library
90 Commercial Street
Bastion Parkade (Skinner & Bastion) – free parking after 5:00