

THE SOCRATIC PARADIGM

Learning to Teach with the Master Educator of the Western Tradition
a ClassicalU Summer Live Learning Course with Jon Balsbaugh

This six-week course is designed to give participants an overview of the Socratic method as it impacts every aspect of teaching — from the persona of the teacher, to how to deliver a lecture, to how to lead students into a discussion of reality in all its complexity. Each week will include select videos from the ClassicalU library, some outside reading, guided discussion, and the opportunity to practice what you are learning for use in the classroom.

Part I: The Wisdom of Socrates

WEEK ONE: WHAT IS THE TEACHER? SOCRATIC IGNORANCE AND THE TEACHER AS LEARNER (M 2-hour session)

One of the most important aspects of Socrates' vocation was how he transformed the understanding of what it means to be a "teacher." This week's session will highlight the role of the teacher as a learner and provide practical tips for teachers on how to appear as an *authentic* learner in the classroom without losing the necessary authority.

ClassicalU Video Series

Reading

WEEK TWO: THE IMPORTANCE OF WONDER (M, 2-hour session)

Both Aristotle and Plato believed that philosophy — the love of wisdom — began with a condition they called "thaumazein" (wonder). This week's session will help teachers understand the true nature of wonder in the ancient sense and provide tips for lesson planning and classroom engagement that make use of wonder as an engine to drive inquiry.

Practicum

ClassicalU Video Series

Reading

WEEK THREE: THE REALITY OF THE CAVE (M, 2-hour session)

Wonder and human awakening always happen in a specific cultural context in which the "puppetmasters" (as Socrates calls them) often hold the minds of the populace captive, forming a serious impediment to true education. This session will help participants inspire students with a vision for education in the context of personal and social development.

Practicum

ClassicalU Video Series

Reading

Part II: A Socratic Paradigm for the Paideia Pillars

Part II of this course builds upon notable American educator Mortimer Adler's three pillars of instruction — didactic instruction, coaching, and seminar.

WEEK FOUR: THE SOCRATIC LECTURER (M, 2-hour session)

While classical schools try to avoid the mere transfer of information, didactic instruction is still a feature of most courses. Sometimes a teacher does to provide students with knowledge about a topic that is essential for their continued growth. However, there are ways to infuse even a lecture with the spirit of Socratic inquiry.

Practicum

ClassicalU Video Series

Reading

WEEK FIVE: THE SOCRATIC COACH (M, TH Two 2-hour sessions)

Coaching (the back-and-forth dynamic between a teacher and student when the student is exploring a new concept or learning a skill) is one of the most important aspects of effective teaching. Participants will learn how to coach students effectively and in the spirit of Socrates.

ClassicalU Video Series

Reading

Practicum

WEEK SIX: THE SOCRATIC SEMINAR LEADER (M, TH Two-2 hour sessions)

In Mortimer Adler's understanding of effective teaching, the seminar method is not restricted to a particular course or discipline. Rather, miniature seminars can be deployed in any class and on any topic. This session will help participants understand when to best use a seminar and how to do so effectively.

ClassicalU Video Series

Reading

Practicum