

Encouraging technical innovation in our U3A Interest Groups

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Islington U3A

24th April 2020

1,300 Free Online Courses

1000+ MOOCs

1,150 Free Movies

700 Free Audio Books

800 Free eBooks

200 Free Textbooks

300 Free Language Lessons

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- [Writing & Journalism](#)

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- [Michel Foucault](#)
 - [Sun Ra at UC Berkeley](#)
 - [Richard Feynman](#)
 - [Joseph Campbell](#)
 - [Carl Sagan](#)
 - [Margaret Atwood](#)
 - [Jorge Luis Borges](#)
 - [Leonard Bernstein](#)
 - [Richard Dawkins](#)
 - [Buckminster Fuller](#)
 - [Walter Kaufmann on Existentialism](#)
 - [Jacques Lacan](#)
 - [Roland Barthes](#)
 - [Nobel Lectures by Writers](#)
 - [Toni Morrison](#)
 - [Bertrand Russell](#)
 - [Oxford Philosophy Lectures](#)

Course on Power and Politics

Initial publicity about the new Group

This is a new concept for iU3A, a different way for learning. Power and Politics in Today's World: 'Today's World' ranges from the huge euphoria that accompanied the collapse of communism in the late 1980s to the politics of fear and resentment that has overtaken much of the world since 2016, focusing on how did we get from there to here, what comes next and what could lead us to a better politics? Professor of Political Science Ian Shapiro plans to answer these questions for Yale University students and share his lectures, which are about an hour long, as videos on YouTube. He introduces the course here. Our first meeting (on 17 January) will introduce the course, show people how to access it on their computer or smartphone, discuss different ways of covering the material and when to review progress. The idea is for Group members to see each subsequent lecture at home before coming together to discuss it once a month for about 90 minutes. It will meet at 10.30am on the 3rd Friday of each month.

Timeline

Before 1st meeting of Power&Politics Group



- 31/8/19 - shared idea with iU3A New Groups Coordinator
- 10/11/19 - first publicity in fortnightly iU3A Bulletin
- 24/11/19 – second publicity in fortnightly iU3A Bulletin
- 18/12/19 – third publicity in fortnightly iU3A Bulletin
- 06/01/20 – fourth publicity in fortnightly iU3A Bulletin

Launch Meeting of Power & Politics Group

Some of the 24 keen students



Timeline

After first meeting of Power&Politics Group



- 17/01/20 – 24 of 35 signed up members came to first meeting and decision made to scale up to 2 courses using survey of members
- 21/02/20 – Groups met in morning to discuss one lecture (50% came) & afternoon to discuss two lectures (90% came) including a new member but loss of 4 due to fall, early operation, change in responsibilities and difficulties getting to meetings on time
- 20/03/20 - Groups met online in morning (35% in Group came) & afternoon (70% in Group came) including a new member & loss of 1
- 17/04/20 - Groups met online in morning (40% in Group came) & afternoon (90% in Group came), including a new member.
Agreement to meet twice a month for both Groups, with focus of new monthly meetings about mid-way between monthly meetings with special emphasis on what Covid19 and Climate Change may mean for Power & Politics in Tomorrow's World

Power & Politics Group 2

April Online Meeting (16 +1 Members)

LRU3A U3A



Timeline

Plans for the future of Power&Politics Groups



- 01/05/20 – Zoom meetings booked for First Friday morning and afternoon of the Month for rest of 2020 on one of the two Zoom Pro accounts of iU3A
- 15/05/20 – Zoom meetings booked for Third Friday morning and afternoon of the Month for rest of 2020 on one of the two Zoom Pro accounts of iU3A to continue discussing one and two lectures per month
- 2021 – Plan for some members of each of the two Groups meeting face to face in the morning and afternoon in Islington Town Hall and others joining them remotely via Zoom

- Inputs
 - First use in iU3A of public video lectures on Youtube, a better platform for U3A Groups than MOOC platforms like Coursera, giving access to world class expertise for local U3A Groups
- Process
 - New type of Group with a limited life
 - No wait lists/course full to find out what the real demand was
 - Publicising in 4 bulletins rather than a minimum of two
 - Scaling up to meet demand rather than constraining demand
 - Bringing people interested in making the Group happen led to some new completely new iU3A volunteers as well as more Groups
 - Moving online without interruption to schedule of both Groups helped other iU3A Groups move online

- Outputs
 - A growth from one in-person meeting in January 2020 to 4 online meetings planned for May 2020
- Impact
 - More than 25% of 80+ iU3A Groups are already online using two paid for Zoom Pro accounts, with numbers rising by the day
 - World Cuisine Group, which met once a month in restaurants to try new cuisines, went online after a gap of 1 month using online courses on a food related theme and online meetings using Zoom
 - iU3A Monthly Meeting with live speaker has gone online with a delay of one month, with more people than taking part than in 2019 (<https://www.dropbox.com/s/qowcvq6zk6yg7gr/1.%20April2020%20Monthly%20Meeting.mp4?dl=0>)