Björklunden Seminars

"Vacation with a purpose"

AUGUST 4-9, 2024 AT BJÖRKLUNDEN



Pragmatism: America's First (and Only!) Philosophy

Course Description

Pragmatism is a uniquely American philosophy. It is the only philosophy that is strictly a product of American philosophers! This does not mean, however, that its roots were entirely American.

We will explore its roots in 17th and 18th century European philosophy, and then examine the basic theories of pragmatism, explaining how it answers in new and important ways the primary questions of philosophy in epistemology, ontology, logic, ethics and aesthetics.

Focus will be on the contributions of William James, John Dewey, C.S. Peirce, and Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., paying particular attention to their influence on practices in the areas of science, education, logic, and jurisprudence.

While pragmatism is "America's Philosophy," it has had widespread influence both at home and abroad since its inception in the 19th century.

Join instructor Terry Goode for an exciting week exploring the philosophy that helped shape American culture and has had important international appeal.



Instructor



Terry Goode

Terry Goode received his B.A. from Ripon College, and his M.A. and Ph.D. in philosophy from Wayne State University.

He has taught philosophy at the University of South Carolina, UW–Fox Valley and UW–Oshkosh.

In his retirement he regularly teaches philosophy for The Clearing in their winter program and for Björklunden in their summer program.

Prior to his retirement he owned and managed two technology companies, and then served as a senior technology officer and information technology consultant to a number of firms in the Fox River Valley.

Terry and his wife Pam are active volunteers in many Door County organizations.