First Friday Lecture Series
The Basic Program of Liberal Education for Adults

**Aphoristic Writing: Approaches in Discernment**
April 1, 2016 | 12:15 PM

**Claudia Cassidy Theater**
Chicago Cultural Center
78 E. Washington

**Raymond Ciacci**
Basic Program Instructor, the University of Chicago

A number of great thinkers in the Western tradition have sought to encapsulate their wisdom in the form of aphorisms. The pearls of wisdom that flow from aphoristic writing have much to teach us. In this lecture, we will examine the aphoristic writings of La Rochefoucauld, Pascal, Guicciardini, and Nietzsche. Many of the aphorisms can be likened to intellectual puzzles. We will examine the extent to which these writers agree or disagree on particular philosophical, political, and religious questions.

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