INTRODUCTION TO WESTERN PHILOSOPHY

PLS1501

SEMESTER 1 - 2025

ASSESSMENT 1

For this assessment, you will be providing short conceptual analyses/answers to three (3) questions. These short questions are meant to allow you to demonstrate your knowledge of the study units. The questions focus on Study Units 1 and 2.

Read and understand the study guide and, of course, you are also expected to do some research. In your responses you must therefore demonstrate your philosophical ability to read, reflect, and explain.

Instructions:

You must answer ALL three (3) questions.

EACH question must be approximately **300 words**. If it is much less than this, ensure that you have answered in enough detail, and if it is much longer than this, ensure that you have only included the most relevant information. Answers that are longer than 300 words may not be marked.

Each question counts for 15 marks to make a total of 45. This will be converted to a mark out of 100.

You **MUST include referenced** evidence in your answers, and you must write in your OWN WORDS.

These are short answers and DO NOT require introductions or conclusions.

Important notes on plagiarism:

Plagiarism of any kind (copying from another source, using online answer generators, using paraphrase generators, etc) will result in you **receiving 0 for the assignment**.

You may **NOT use any AI-GENERATORS** (eg. ChatGPT) to develop your answers. If you submit AI-generated answers, **you will receive 0** for the assignment.

Questions (answer all three):

1. Is the continued dominance of Western philosophy in an African country something ethically desirable and sustainable? In your answer, consider the potential benefits and drawbacks of prioritising Western philosophical thought in this context. [15 marks]

2. Drawing on the knowledge you have gained about metaphysics, explain why the Milesian philosophers should be called "metaphysicians". Refer to Unit Two of the Study Guide. [15 marks]

3. Why did Plato think that virtue depends on knowledge? Do you agree with this view? Explain your answer. [15 marks]