# Course Outline: Contemporary Western Philosophy

Instructor: Jun Albert Pardillo  
Credit Units: 3  
Target Students: 2nd Year Applied English Students  
Total Hours: 54  
Class Hours per Week: 3

## Course Description

Contemporary Western Philosophy is a course designed for 2nd Year Applied English Students who are interested in   
exploring the philosophical ideas and concepts that have shaped the modern world. This course will provide students   
with an in-depth understanding of the major philosophical movements and thinkers of the 20th and 21st centuries,   
including existentialism, postmodernism, feminism, and critical theory.  
  
Through a combination of lectures, readings, and discussions, students will examine the key philosophical questions   
that have emerged in the contemporary era, such as the nature of reality, the meaning of life, the role of language   
and communication, and the relationship between the individual and society. Students will also explore the ways in   
which these philosophical ideas have influenced other fields, such as literature, art, and politics.  
  
By the end of the course, students will have developed a critical and analytical approach to philosophical texts and   
ideas, as well as an appreciation for the relevance of philosophy in contemporary society. They will also have honed   
their writing and communication skills through a series of assignments and presentations that require them to articulate   
their own philosophical perspectives and engage with the ideas of others.  
  
Overall, Contemporary Western Philosophy is an engaging and challenging course that will provide students with a deeper   
understanding of the philosophical ideas that have shaped our world, and equip them with the skills and knowledge to   
engage with these ideas in a meaningful way.

## Course Outline

### Week 1-4: Introduction to Contemporary Western Philosophy

Overview of the major movements and thinkers of the 20th and 21st centuries. Introduction to the concepts   
 of existentialism, postmodernism, feminism, and critical theory. Discussion on the evolution of philosophical   
 thought from the modern to the contemporary era.

### Week 5-8: Existentialism and the Meaning of Life

In-depth study of existentialism. Exploration of the works of key existentialist philosophers such as   
 Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir, and Albert Camus. Discussion on existentialism's perspectives on   
 freedom, authenticity, and the meaning of life.

### Week 9-12: Postmodernism and the Role of Language

Examination of postmodernism and its critique of grand narratives. Study of the works of philosophers   
 like Michel Foucault, Jean Baudrillard, and Jacques Derrida. Analysis of postmodern perspectives on   
 language, knowledge, and power.

### Week 13-15: Feminism and Critical Theory

Exploration of feminist philosophy and critical theory. Discussion on the contributions of philosophers   
 such as Judith Butler, Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, and The Frankfurt School. Examination of issues   
 related to gender, race, and class.

### Week 16-18: Contemporary Philosophy and Its Impact

Discussion on how contemporary philosophy influences other fields like literature, art, and politics.   
 Students will engage with current philosophical debates and their implications for contemporary society.   
 Final presentations on students' own philosophical perspectives in relation to the course material.