# Course Outline

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| **Course title: Contemporary Western Philosophy** | **Instructor name: Jun Albert Pardillo** |
| **Credit units: 3** | **Total hours: 54** |

## 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 Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

* Demonstrate an understanding of the major philosophical movements and thinkers of the 20th and 21st centuries, including existentialism, postmodernism, feminism, and critical theory.
* Analyze and critique philosophical texts and ideas, applying critical thinking to contemporary philosophical questions.
* Articulate their own philosophical perspectives and engage with the ideas of others through written and oral communication.
* Understand the influence of contemporary philosophical ideas on other fields such as literature, art, and politics.
* Develop an appreciation for the relevance and application of philosophy in contemporary society.

## Topics / Modules and Intended Learning Outcomes

1. Introduction to Contemporary Western Philosophy

* Identify the defining characteristics and objectives of contemporary Western philosophy.
* Describe the historical context that led to the development of contemporary philosophical thought.

1. Existentialism in Contemporary Philosophy

* Explain the core principles of existentialist philosophy.
* Analyze the contributions of key existentialist philosophers to contemporary thought.

1. Postmodernism and its Critics

* Understand the key ideas and criticisms of postmodern philosophy.
* Evaluate the impact of postmodernism on modern culture and thought.

1. Feminism in Contemporary Philosophy

* Describe the evolution of feminist philosophy in the 20th and 21st centuries.
* Assess the contributions of feminist philosophy to contemporary ethical, social, and political debates.

1. Critical Theory in Contemporary Philosophy

* Explain the origins and development of critical theory.
* Critique the application of critical theory to contemporary social issues.

## Weekly Activities

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| **Week No.** | **Topic** | **Activity Description** | **Expected Output** | **Assessment Tools** |
| Week 1 | **Introduction to Contemporary Western Philosophy** | Introduction to the course and an overview of contemporary Western philosophy. Discussion on the significance of philosophy in understanding modern issues. | Participation in discussion, submission of a reflective essay on the role of philosophy in the modern world. | Class participation, Reflective essay assessment rubric |
| Week 2-3 | **Existentialism in Contemporary Philosophy** | Lectures on existentialism followed by discussions on the works of Sartre and other existentialists. Group presentations on existentialist themes in contemporary culture. | Group presentations, individual short essays on existentialism's relevance today. | Presentation grading rubric, Essay assessment criteria |
| Week 4-5 | **Postmodernism and its Critics** | Examination of postmodernism through lectures and critical readings. Debate on the impact of postmodernism on truth and knowledge. | Participation in debate, critical review paper on a postmodern philosopher. | Debate participation rubric, Critical review assessment criteria |
| Week 6-7 | **Feminism in Contemporary Philosophy** | Study of feminist philosophy, its history, and impact on society. Analysis of feminist texts and discussion on feminism's role in contemporary issues. | Written analysis of a feminist text, group discussion summaries. | Text analysis rubric, Group discussion evaluation form |
| Week 8-9 | **Critical Theory in Contemporary Philosophy** | Exploration of critical theory's foundations and its critique of society and culture. Students will engage in projects that apply critical theory to analyze social issues. | Project presentations, reflective journals on the application of critical theory. | Project presentation rubric, Reflective journal assessment criteria |
| Week 10-18 | **Integration and Application** | Students will integrate the knowledge gained from previous weeks to engage in comprehensive projects that reflect on contemporary philosophical issues, culminating in a final research paper. | Comprehensive project presentation, final research paper on a contemporary philosophical issue. | Comprehensive project rubric, Research paper grading criteria |

## References

*Sartre, J.P. (1943). Being and Nothingness. Philosophical Library.*  
Link:

*Lyotard, J.F. (1984). The Postmodern Condition: A Report on Knowledge. University of Minnesota Press.*  
Link:

*Butler, J. (1990). Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity. Routledge.*  
Link:

*Delanty, G. (2020). Critical Theory and Social Transformation: Crises of the Present and Future Possibilities. Taylor & Francis.*  
Link: https://www.taylorfrancis.com/books/mono/10.4324/9780429297045/critical-theory-social-transformation-gerard-delanty