# Course Outline

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **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)

* Identify and explain the major philosophical movements and thinkers of the 20th and 21st centuries.
* Analyze and critique key philosophical questions and concepts arising in contemporary philosophy, including existentialism, postmodernism, feminism, and critical theory.
* Demonstrate an understanding of the impact of contemporary philosophical ideas on other fields such as literature, art, and politics.
* Develop and articulate personal philosophical perspectives, engaging critically with both classical and contemporary philosophical texts.
* Enhance writing and communication skills through structured philosophical arguments and presentations.

## Topics / Modules and Intended Learning Outcomes

1. Overview of Contemporary Western Philosophy

* Summarize the evolution of philosophical methods and concepts from traditional to contemporary Western philosophy.
* Compare and contrast the philosophical approaches and ideas between Western and non-Western philosophies, particularly Confucian thought.

1. Existentialism in the 20th and 21st Centuries

* Identify key existentialist thinkers and their contributions to 20th and 21st-century philosophy.
* Analyze the influence of existentialism on religion, personalism, and education.

1. Influence of Postmodernism on Modern Thought

* Describe the foundational principles of postmodernism and its critique of modernism.
* Discuss the implications of postmodernism for contemporary culture, thought, and criticism.

1. Feminism and its Philosophical Contributions

* Outline the key philosophical contributions of feminism to contemporary Western philosophy.
* Evaluate the impact of feminist philosophy on gender studies, metaphysics, and social movements.

1. Critical Theory in Contemporary Philosophy

* Explain the principles of critical theory and its goals for society and culture.
* Analyze the relevance of critical theory to understanding social transformations and future societal possibilities.

## Weekly Activities

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Week No.** | **Topic** | **Activity Description** | **Expected Output** | **Assessment Tools** |
| Week 1 | **Introduction to the Course and Overview of Contemporary Western Philosophy** | Introduction to the course, discussing the syllabus, and an overview lecture on the evolution of contemporary Western philosophy. | Students will write a reflection paper on their initial understanding of contemporary Western philosophy and its significance. | Reflection paper grading rubric |
| Week 2-3 | **Existentialism in the 20th and 21st Centuries** | Lectures on key existentialist thinkers and their philosophies, followed by group discussions on existentialism's influence on various aspects of culture. | Group presentation on the application of existentialist ideas in modern society. | Presentation grading rubric |
| Week 4-5 | **Influence of Postmodernism on Modern Thought** | Exploration of postmodernism through lectures and critical reading sessions, focusing on its critique of modernism and implications for contemporary culture. | Critical essay on a chosen aspect of postmodern influence on a specific field. | Essay grading rubric |
| Week 6-7 | **Feminism and its Philosophical Contributions** | Study of feminist philosophy through readings and discussions, examining its impact on gender studies and social movements. | Students will conduct a case study analysis on the effect of feminist philosophy in a contemporary issue. | Case study analysis grading rubric |
| Week 8-9 | **Critical Theory in Contemporary Philosophy** | Lectures on the principles of critical theory, followed by seminars discussing its relevance to understanding social transformations. | Research paper on the application of critical theory to analyze a current societal issue. | Research paper grading rubric |
| Week 10-18 | **Integration and Application** | Capstone project that integrates various philosophical theories studied throughout the course to a contemporary issue, culminating in a final presentation. | Capstone project report and presentation. | Capstone project grading rubric and presentation grading rubric |

## References

*Lambert, A. (2021). Confucian Thought and Contemporary Western Philosophy. In Dao Companion to Contemporary Confucian Philosophy. Springer.*  
Link: https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-030-56475-9\_25

*Bochenek, K. (2024). Implications of Reductive Anthropology for Religion. The Person and the Challenges.*  
Link: https://czasopisma.upjp2.edu.pl/thepersonandthechallenges/article/view/4871

*Boyer, R.L. (n.d.). THE POST-MODERN MIND. Academia.edu.*  
Link: https://www.academia.edu/download/64421328/ModernPostmodernMind\_Pt2\_Tarnas\_fd5.1\_091220\_4post@gtu.academia.edu.pdf

*Van Ingen, M., Grohmann, S., & Gunnarsson, L. (2020). Critical realism, feminism, and gender: A reader. Taylor & Francis.*  
Link: https://api.taylorfrancis.com/content/books/mono/download?identifierName=doi&identifierValue=10.4324/9781315112138&type=googlepdf

*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