



Course Type: **CORE VALUE**

Course Code: **VAL504**

Course Name: **Philosophy**

## **COURSE SYLLABUS**

*Students please note that this is core value course. All students must undertake this Calwest courses (\$250 per course) via Tubeclasses. Students may have undertaken similar course in another accredited university; but must still complete this course at Calwest. There will be no Recognized Prior Learning (RPL) for this course.*

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### **1. Course Description**

While most people live their lives concerned with mundane, everyday affairs, the philosopher asks “the big questions.” While the average person wants to know what’s for supper, or if they are able to afford the gas to get back home, the philosopher seeks to understand the nature of existence. The following questions are examples of philosophical inquiry: Does life have meaning? Is there a God? Do I possess free-will? Is anything objectively certain? What is good?

Philosophy is an ongoing dialogue which is more than 5000 years old. It has attempted to answer these “deep” questions, yet as one engages in the study of philosophy, one realizes that the questions of the philosopher are almost never answered definitively. However, one should not worry about that fact since it is the questions which really matter, not the answers. The questions we raise at any given time tell us a great deal about who we are both individually and collectively at that moment.

The objectives of the course are to develop and enhance a student’s ability to consider philosophy as an area of study that is based on the belief that it is filled with fascinating questions. It is designed to invite every student in whatever discipline into deep, enjoyable, and accessible philosophical exploration. Students will consider the thinking of the world’s most influential philosophers; this course is an explanatory pedagogy that presents philosophy in a clear, accessible way that does not sacrifice rigor. The course makes connections among different philosophical theories throughout, and helps students to engage in subject matter and apply theories to important philosophical issues.

The prescribed text for the course offers a balance of theory and applications through a mix of text and readings, and begins each chapter covering philosophical theory, followed by related, classical readings.

### 3. Learning Objectives

1. Students will the skills they need to develop, establish, reconstruct, and evaluate arguments in any field or endeavor.
2. Students will gain a broad understanding of the general explanatory principles, reflect upon what really matters, look for alternatives to widely-accepted views, and learn to distinguish what is significant from what is not.
3. Students will learn how to explore, defend, and constructively criticize ideas and claims with others.
4. Students will become familiar with some of the major figures and schools of thought in the intellectual tradition, and develop an appetite for further study and learning.

### 4. Learning Outcomes:

To successfully complete this subject, a student should be able to:

1. Identify, describe, develop, explain and analyze philosophical ideas.
2. Identify describe, develop, explain and analyze reasoned arguments
3. Identify describe, develop, explain and analyze ideas in philosophical perspectives
4. Identify describe, develop, explain and analyze how philosophical inquiry can be applied to a range of business issues.

### 5. Prescribed Reading (Compulsory)

Bruce N. Waller, **Consider Philosophy, Pearsons (Latest Edition)**, Pearson, New Jersey, USA.  
<http://www.pearsoned.com/>

### 6. Student Resource Requirements

- PC: A reliable computer running Windows XP or higher with 500 MB of RAM or higher
- Mac: A reliable computer running Mac OS 10 or higher
- Reliable high speed Internet connection (minimum 768 Kbps/128 Kbps)
- Web browser with Adobe Flash Player installed (Flash Player 10 or higher recommended)

### 7. Topic Outline

<b>Topic No.</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Chapter and Topic PowerPoint</b>
1	Philosophy: an Introduction	Ch 1
2	Religion and philosophy - What Can We Know?	Ch 2,3
3	Rationalism, Empiricism, Kant	Ch 4
4	Contemporary Epistemology	Ch 5
5	The Mind	Ch 6
6	Personal Identity	Ch 7
7	Fatalism, Determinism, Free Will	Ch 8
8	Free Will and Determinism	Ch 9
9	Morality	Ch 10

10	Ethics: Reason and Emotion	Ch 11
11	Ethical Theories	Ch 12
12	Objective Ethical Truths	Ch 13
13	Political Philosophy	Ch 14

## 8. Assessment

There will be **Continuous Assessments** done throughout this course. All topics will have a **Topic Quiz** that needs to be satisfactorily answered prior to being allowed to access the next topic in the course. You are allowed 3 attempts in each Topic Quiz, so that you can revise the course material and master the topic before proceeding to the next topic in the course. Calwest keeps computer logs of all student activity in terms of accessing the course material and MCQs to ensure that sufficient time is being spent on online studies. Note that negative marks will be attached to wrong answers in the Topic MCQs, and this will affect the final assessment score. *Therefore, please study the course material before attempting the Topic MCQs.*

After completing all Topics (and Quizzes), your **Final Assessment** will be available for you to undertake online at a time of your convenience. There will be a time limit of *90 minutes* for the final assessment in which you will need to answer *80 multiple-choice questions* that will be randomly selected from the questions asked in the topic quizzes.

**Please ensure that you have an undisturbed 90-minute time frame to undertake your Final Assessment as after 90 minutes your work will be automatically submitted and graded.**

**There will be only one attempt provided for the Final Assessment.**

***The Final Assessment will form the over 80% of the weight given to your final course grade. The Balance 20% is obtained as an average of the scores you achieve in the Topic Quizzes.***

## 9. Grading Criteria

Calwest University applies the following grading system in all courses:

A pass mark of 60% (grade of D which is a bare minimum pass) or above is required to satisfy the educational requirements of the university for completing the course. The grade assessments are as follows:

Below 60%:	Fail
60-64%	: D
65-69%	: D+
70-72%	: C-

73-75%	: C
76-78%	: C+
79-81%	: B-
82-84%	: B

85-88%	: B+
89-91%	: A-
92-95%	: A
Over 95%	: A+