

ANNOUNCING THE DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY'S 2025-2026

## WILLIAM H. ALAMSHAH MEMORIAL PHILOSOPHICAL ESSAY PRIZE COMPETITION



**Eligibility:** This competition is open to students enrolled in the **2025-26** academic year at Cal State Fullerton who have not previously won the prize. No one may submit more than one paper per competition.

**Instructions:** Prepare a philosophical essay of *up to but no more than 4000 words*. Include a *word count on the first page*. Submit this anonymously by removing all features from the paper that would identify you as the author. Submit a cover sheet with your name and a copy of the paper to Kayla Woodson via email ([kwoodson@fullerton.edu](mailto:kwoodson@fullerton.edu)) by **Monday, December 22, 2025**. All eligible papers will be anonymously reviewed by a three-person faculty committee.

**Authorship:** Papers written for courses may be submitted to the competition, but any constructive criticism by faculty on the paper must be acknowledged. Papers should indicate the specific course name and the faculty member for whom it was written. With the exception for feedback in the context of a class, no faculty (of any department) may assist the author on the submission. Students are not allowed to use any generative-AI tools, including ChatGPT, Perplexity, Grammarly, or other similar platforms, in either composing or revising their essays for this contest.

**Award:** The author of the best paper will receive a **monetary prize of \$600**. Second prize is **\$300**. The name of the prizewinner is engraved on the plaque in Plato's Cave.

*For further information, email Professor Matthew Calarco*  
[mcalarco@fullerton.edu](mailto:mcalarco@fullerton.edu)