

PHILOSOPHY 211

Introduction to Existentialism

PHIL 211
SPRING 2018
T,W,F: 9:30-10:20
Clearihue A203

Instructor: Nina Belmonte
Office: Clearihue B318
Office Hours: Tues: 1:30-2:30
Thursday: 1:30-2:30
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Course Description:

-aware? How do we experience our selves and our world? Does our kind of existence imply anything about how we ought to live? This course will be an introduction to the ideas and literature of Existentialism through the texts of its major thinkers and literary figures. We will discuss out of "modern" philosophy claiming the absolute primacy of particular existence. We will then explore how Existentialism works out the implications of that claim.

Readings will include selections from the philosophy of Soren Kierkegaard, Friedrich Nietzsche, Martin Heidegger, Jean-Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir, along with some relevant short fiction.

Texts

In the Bookstore:

Kauffman, Walter : *Existentialism from Dostoevsky to Sartre*
Kierkegaard, Sören: *Fear and Trembling*
Nietzsche, Friedrich: *The Gay Science*

All other readings will be available in Reserve and on CourseSpaces site.

Assignments

Class Participation & Study Questions	20%
Mid-term	25%
Short Paper	25%
Final Term paper:	<u>30%</u>
	100%

Grades

Percentages will convert to a letter grade according to the following scheme:

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 65-69	D = 50-59
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 60-64	F = 0-49
A- = 80-84	B- = 70-72		

Description of Assignments

Study Questions and Class Participation/Discussion: You are expected to read and to come to class prepared. Each week there will be short-answer questions relating to the readings (assignments will be posted on the CourseSpaces site). Because these questions are intended to help you come to class prepared to engage in discussion, these will be due by class time on the designated day. No late assignments accepted. It will not be possible to make them up.

Schedule of Classes

Week One - Introductions

- Jan.** 3 Introductions, Explanations, Hesitations
5 A Voice from Underground

Week Two - Philosophical Context of Existentialism: The Human(?) Subject

- 9 That New Voice: Dostoevsky (cont.)
10 Thinking Thing
Read: Descartes, *Meditations*, Meditation 2 (CourseSpaces)
12 Transcendental Subject
Read: Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*,
[420-423; 425-427] (CourseSpaces)

Week Three - Kierkegaard: Paradox of the Singular

- 16 *That Individual*
Read: Sections 1 and 4 in Kaufmann, *Existentialism from Dostoevsky to Sartre*, (pgs. 85-87, 94-101)
17 *Only One*
Read: Section 7 in Kaufmann, *Existentialism from Dostoevsky to Sartre*
(pgs. 114-120)
19 *Abraham*
Read: Kierkegaard, *Fear and Trembling*, Preamble from the Heart

Week Four - Kierkegaard: Ethics of the Singular

- 23 *The Singular and the Universal*
Read: Kierkegaard, *Fear and Trembling*, Problem 1
24
26 *Story Break*
Read: in Kaufmann, pgs. 144-145

Week Five - Nietzsche: Life, Art and Value **Five**

30*

Read: Kaufmann, Nietzsche, Sect. 1 (122-

Week Ten - Sartre: "Ontology"

- 6* Heidegger Rap
Second Paper Due
- 7 Being In-Itself
Read: *Nausea*, p. 126-135 (CourseSpaces)
- 9 Being For-Itself
Read: Sartre, *Being and Nothingness*, 24-30

Week Eleven - Sartre: Hell is Other People

- 13 The Being of Others (Park)
Read: Sartre, *Being and Nothingness*, 301-303; 340-369 (bottom)
- 14 The Being of Others (Key Hole)
- 16 Play Break: Hell is Other People
Read or Watch: (CourseSpaces)

Week Twelve - Sartre: Death, Freedom and Responsibility

- 20 Non-Being: Death
-299
- 21 Freedom and Responsibility
Read: Sartre, "Existentialism is a Humanism," in Kaufmann,
Existentialism, pgs. 345-369
- 23 Sartre Rap

Week Thirteen - de Beauvoir: Existential Ethics

- 27 Ambiguity & Freedom
from *The Ethics of Ambiguity* (CourseSpaces)
- 28 Ambiguity & Freedom (cont)
- 30 Good Friday (No Class)

Week Fourteen - Literary Adventures

- April** 3 de Beauvoir Rap
- 4 -378
- 6 ***Last Class***

**** APRIL 16th - FINAL PAPERS DUE****