

Department of Philosophy

University of Guelph

Fall 2010

PHIL*2170DE Syllabus

Professor: Dr. Victoria I Burke

Office Location: MACK 339

Office Hours: by appointment only. I am readily available to meet if you want to discuss the material

Existentialism

Calendar Description: Existentialism is a philosophy built around the experience of human freedom. This course focuses on the character of the subject who makes choices, and on the personal and political responsibilities that attach to the making of decisions. The course will examine this and other themes associated with Existentialism through nineteenth and twentieth century representatives, which may include Kierkegaard, Sartre, de Beauvoir, Camus and others.

Required Texts

•Existentialist Philosophy: An Introduction, 2nd Edition.

Author(s): L. Nathan Oaklander

Published by: Prentice-Hall in 1996

•The Ethics of Ambiguity.

Author(s): Simone de Beauvoir

Published by: Citadel Press

•Course Reader

Evaluation:

Discussions: 20%

Short Essay: 20% (4-5 pages)

Term Paper: 40% (7-8 pages)

Final Take-Home Exam: 20%

WEEK 1: Existentialism as Humanism

September 9-19

Reading: •Oaklander, pages 310-19, Sartre "Existentialism Is a Humanism"; Recommended •Educational Series about "The Examined Life"; Photos of Sartre

WEEK 2: Ambiguity and Freedom

September 20-26

Reading: de Beauvoir pages 7-34, de Beauvoir; Oaklander pages 253-58, Sartre; Recommended : Sartre and de Beauvoir sites for photos (warning: it is a commercial site); Tete-a-Tete: Simone de Beauvoir and Jean-Paul Sartre (video); Photos and audio of de Beauvoir

Discussion for even numbered groups

WEEK 3: Freedom and Others

September 27-October 3

Reading: de Beauvoir pages 35-96, de Beauvoir: Recommended: Video, "Cleo from 5 to 7" (note: You will have to pay \$4 online to view it)

Discussion for odd numbered groups

WEEK 4: Bad Faith

October 4-10

Reading: Oaklander 258-78, Sartre

Discussion for even numbered groups

WEEK 5: The Look: Shame and Sadism

October 12-17

Reading: •Oaklander pages 281-300, Sartre; Required: Video, interview with Sartre and de Beauvoir < e-reserve >

Discussion for odd numbered groups

WEEK 6: Existentialist Politics

October 18-24

Reading: De Beauvoir 96-159

*Short Essay on Sartre or de Beauvoir DUE (20% of grade): upload onto course website by midnight October 24. (4-5 pages) Instructions to be posted on the updates page.

Discussion for even numbered groups

WEEK 7: Fear and Trembling (Abraham and ethics)

October 25-31

Reading: •Oaklander pages 46-68, Kierkegaard; Oaklander pages 105, Will to Power; Oaklander pages 115-21, Nietzsche; Recommended: Video, "Kierkegaard Political Speech, YouTube"; Listen to some music by Nietzsche
Photos of Nietzsche

Discussion for odd numbered groups

WEEK 8: Being-towards-Death

November 1-7

Reading: Oaklander 168-9, 180-94, Heidegger; Required: Video, Ister < e-reserve >; Recommended : Video, "All Too Human: Heidegger"; Video, "Heidegger Speaks"

Discussion for even numbered groups

Thursday, November 4: last day to drop

WEEK 9: Surrealism

November 8-14

Reading: Oaklander 357-69, Camus; Required, Course Reader: Breton; Recommended: Painting by Breton

Discussion for odd numbered groups

WEEK 10: I-Thou (Existentialism and God)

November 15-21

Reading: Required, Course Reader : Buber

Discussion for even numbered group

WEEK 11: Existentialism and Gender

November 22-28

Reading: Required, Course Reader: de Beauvoir; Reader: Fanon

*Final term paper DUE (40% of grade): upload onto course website by midnight November 28. (7-8 pages)
Instructions to be posted on the updates page.

Discussion for odd numbered groups

WEEK 12: Existential Experiment

November 29-December 5

Reading: •There are no required readings or viewings this week.

Take Home Final Exam (20% of grade): December 12 upload due date

E-mail Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the university and its students.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement...

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and

e-mail contact. See the undergraduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

Drop Date

The last date to drop one-semester Fall 2010 courses, without academic penalty, is **Thursday November 4**. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Undergraduate Calendar:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

Copies of out-of-class assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and enjoins all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml>

Recording of Materials

Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded in any electronic media without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer.

Resources

The Undergraduate Calendar is the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate programs. It can be found at:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/>

