



EXISTENTIALISM

Fall 2021 Syllabus

Philosophy 360

Section 001

CRN: 12685

MW 3:00 — 4:15 PM

Online Scheduled

Dr. Timothy J. Freeman

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*Office Hours: MW 1:00-2:00 pm
or by appointment*

CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION

PHIL 360 Existentialism *WI*

The themes which recur in the works of existential philosophers from the 19th century to the present. Pre: Junior standing or consent of the instructor.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Existentialism: Basic Writings, 2nd edition, ed. Charles Guignon and Derk Pereboom. Hackett Publishing Company, 2001.

Thus Spoke Zarathustra, Friedrich Nietzsche. Translated by Graham Parkes. Oxford University Press, 2005.

The Plague, Albert Camus. Translated by Stuart Gilbert. Random House, 1991.

WEB PAGE

<http://tfreeman.net/Philosophy/360/>

COURSE CONTENT

This course will examine one of the important movements in contemporary Continental Philosophy. We will begin with the 19th Century precursors, Kierkegaard, Dostoevsky, and Nietzsche, and then in Part II of the course move on to cover the most important 20th century existentialist thinkers Heidegger, Sartre, De Beauvoir, and Camus. The primary aim of the course is to introduce the students to the broad outlines and some of the key figures in contemporary Continental Philosophy.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

[Philosophy courses for GE purposes]: (As with all Philosophy courses) Students who successfully complete the course will be able to:

- *respond clearly, logically and critically to examination questions and discussion questions about some important philosophical issues relevant to the course;
- *read, comprehend, and discuss philosophical texts relevant to the course;
- *compose effective written materials that assimilate, synthesize and reflect on course information;
- *identify and describe in writing and in class discussion some important aspects of the cultural heritage and contributions of Western philosophy.

COURSE FORMAT

Synchronous Zoom sessions with lectures, film clips, PowerPoint presentations, film clips, and class discussions.

CLASSROOM POLICIES

Students will be expected to tune in to the Zoom sessions with camera on and be ready to participate in class discussions.

GRADING POLICY

This is a writing intensive course. The final grade will be based on the following:

- 1) One must do 3 of 5 short writing assignments (3-4 pages each). If you do more than 3, I will drop the lowest grade. (15% each for a total of 45% of the final grade)
- 2) A final essay paper due at the time scheduled for a final exam. The essay must include a development of at least one of the short essay assignments. (55% of the final grade)

Grading will be determined according to the following scale:

A 95-100 Excellent	C+ 77-79
A- 90-94	C 74-76 Satisfactory
B+ 87-89	C- 70-73
B 84-86 Good	D 60-70 Poor
B- 80-83	F 0-59 Failure

SUPPORT AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS

[Short Link](#)

[Mobile link](#)

COURSE SCHEDULE

PART ONE: 19TH CENTURY

Week 1: Introduction to Existentialism

M 08/23 *Course Introduction and Orientation*

W 08/25 *The Legacy of Existentialism: Main Themes*

Basic Writings (xiii-xxxviii)

Week 2: Background to Existentialism

M 08/30 *From Kant to Schopenhauer*

W 09/01 *From Kant to Schopenhauer*

Basic Writings (1-25)

August 31: last day to withdraw without owing tuition

Week 3: Kierkegaard

M 09/06 **Holiday: Labor Day**

W 09/08 *Fear and Trembling: A Panegyric upon Abraham*

Fear and Trembling: A Teleological Suspension of the Ethical?

Basic Writings (26-77)

***September 10: last day to exercise Credit/No Credit
and final deadline to apply for Fall 2021 Graduation.*

Week 4: Kierkegaard

M 09/13 *The Sickness unto Death*

Basic Writings (78-84)

W 09/15 *Concluding Unscientific Postscript*

Basic Writings (85-92)

September 14: last day to withdraw without "W"

Week 5: Dostoevsky

M 09/20 *Notes from Underground*

online text

W 09/22 *The Grand Inquisitor*

online text

Week 6: Nietzsche

M 09/27 *Introduction & The Birth of Tragedy*

Basic Writings (93-122)

W 09/29 *The Joyous Science*

Basic Writings (123-171)

Week 7: Nietzsche

M 10/04 *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*

W 10/06 *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*

Week 8: Nietzsche

M 10/11 *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*

W 10/13 *Selections from Nietzsche's writings*

Twilight of the Idols

Basic Writings (172-181)

PART TWO: 20TH CENTURY

Week 9: Heidegger

M 10/18 Introduction

Basic Writings (183-210)

W 10/20 *Being and Time*

Basic Writings (211-246)

Week 10: Heidegger

M 10/25 *Being and Time: Analysis of Dasein*

Basic Writings (219-246)

W 10/27 *Being and Time: Dasein and Temporality*

Basic Writings (246-254)

Week 11: Heidegger

M 11/01 The Question Concerning Technology

W 11/03 The Question Concerning Technology

November 1: last day to drop a class online with "W"*

Week 12: Sartre

M 11/08 Introduction

Basic Writings (255-289)

W 11/10 "The Humanism of Existentialism"

Basic Writings (290-308)

Week 13:

M 11/15 *Being and Nothingness*

W 11/17 *Being and Nothingness*

Basic Writings (309-362)

Week 14: De Beauvoir

M 11/22 *The Ethics of Ambiguity*

W 11/24 *The Ethics of Ambiguity*

online text

Week 15: Camus

M 11/29 *The Plague*

W 12/01 *The Plague*

Week 16: Camus

M 12/06 *The Myth of Sisyphus*

W 12/08 *The Myth of Sisyphus*

online text

Final Exam

W 12/15 (2:00 — 4:00 pm)

schedule is subject to revision