

Existentialist Philosophies

Philosophy 336

Spring 2017, MWF 10:25AM - 11:20AM, BA 225

Instructor: P.D. Magnus

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Office hours MW 11:30-12:30, and by appointment

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Overview: A central existentialist idea is that individuals as human beings are caught between the particular stages of their lives and themselves as existing across time— in tension between being what they are and becoming what they will be. The course explores this theme through the works of Martin Heidegger, Jean-Paul Sartre, and Simone de Beauvoir.

Texts: The course readings include articles which are available on the course Blackboard page.

I strongly encourage you to print these and bring them with you to class.

Most of the course readings will come from three books:

Martin Heidegger

Being and Time [BT]

ISBN 9781438432762

Jean-Paul Sartre

Being and Nothingness [BN]

ISBN 9780671867805

Simone de Beauvoir

The Ethics of Ambiguity [EA]

ISBN 9781480442801

Requirements: There will be two *in-class exams*, a *final exam*, and two *five-page essays* on assigned topics. For grading, course elements will count equally.

Class participation: Participation in class discussion is required. Exemplary participation will add to your grade, up to two-thirds of a letter grade.

Policies

Academic honesty: Students are encouraged to discuss issues from the course with each other and with others outside of class. However, you are responsible for your own ideas. Papers should include citations to any works cited or consulted, as well as acknowledgments of helpful interactions. Cheating will not be tolerated.

Late papers: Response papers must be turned in by the beginning of class on the day we discuss material. Late response papers will not be accepted.

Absences: Students who will need to miss class for religious observance, away games, or for other foreseeable reasons should discuss these issues with the professor at the beginning of the term. If an emergency results in your absence, you should contact the professor as soon as possible. Make-up exams will be given only for documented, excused absences.

Schedule

The schedule on the next page is approximate. Topics will require some revision along the way, but the due dates and dates of exams will not change.

Date	Topic	Reading
M, jan23	Introduction	
W, jan25	Existence precedes essence	Sartre, "Existentialism as Humanism"
F, jan27	//	//
M, jan30	Philosophy dramatized	Sartre, "No Exit"
W, feb1	//	//
F, feb3	Nietzsche	Nietzsche, selections
M, feb6	//	//
W, feb8	//	//
F, feb10	HEIDEGGER: Phenomenology	recommended BT §7
M, feb13	The analytic of Dasein	BT §§2,9
W, feb15	//	★ FIRST ESSAY DUE ★
F, feb17	Handiness and objective presence	BT §§12,14,15,16
M, feb20	//	//
W, feb22	Review	—
F, feb24	EXAM #1	—
M, feb27	Being with others	BT SS25–27
W, mar1	Mood	BT §§29–30
F, mar3	Anxiety	BT §§35,37,38,40
M, mar6	//	//
W, mar8	Death	BT §§47,52,53
F, mar8	//	//
MWF, mar13–17	SPRING BREAK	NO CLASS
M, mar20	SARTRE: Nothingness	BN pgs. 33–44, 56–70
W, mar22	Bad faith	BN pgs. 86–90, 96–116
F, mar24	//	//
M, mar27	The look of the other	BN pgs. 301–303, 340–355
W, mar29	Freedom!	BN pgs. 619–629, 647–653, 701–711
F, mar31	//	//
M, apr3	Implications	BN pgs. 785–798
W, apr5	//	//
F, apr7	Another viewpoint	Marcel, "The Ego and Its Relation to Others"
M, apr10	//	//
W, apr12	PASSOVER	NO CLASS
F, apr14	EXAM #2	—
M, apr17	EASTER	NO CLASS
W, apr19	DE BEAUVOIR: Ambiguity	EA ch. I
F, apr21	Relations to others	EA ch. II
M, apr24	//	//
W, apr26	The positive project	EA ch. III §§1–2
F, apr28	//	★ SECOND ESSAY DUE ★
M, may1	The future	EA ch. III §§3–4
W, may3	Ambiguity	EA ch. III §5
F, may5	//	EA conclusion
M, may8	buffer day	?
W, may10	Conclusion	—
T, may16	final exam	3:30–5:30