Existentialism
PHP 3786 (0123)
Spring 2017
3 credits
MWF 6, LEI 242

In this course we will examine the philosophical themes and concepts of existentialism in context -- including historical, geographical, cultural, religious, social, and political contexts. The goal is to evaluate contributions to philosophical debates about reality, knowledge, personal identity, sensibilities, consciousness, values, and commitment. We will read both classical and contemporary texts.

Topics:

• What is existentialism?
• Who are the first existentialists?
• What are the historical conditions that give rise to existentialism as a movement or school of thought?
• Who are the major existentialist thinkers receiving the attention of the literary world? Of the philosophical world?
• What are the main themes and approaches?
• How do existentialist ideas change traditional conceptions of the relationship between reason and faith?
• How are existentialist themes developed in European texts? In non-Western texts?
• How are existentialist values related to traditional Western values?
• What are the traditional Western roles for women? How do existentialists challenge this? How are gender differences regarded in each type of view?
• How are people who were colonized previously regarded in the traditional Western approach? How do existentialists connect issues about oppression with issues about freedom?
• How does existentialism change as it moves across national boundaries?
• How does existentialism change with time?

Requirements:

There will be a midterm essay test written during the term (2/27) and two essays written in a final examination. Each of the essays will count as one third of the grade. Students are expected to attend class. Attendance will be taken. Students are asked not to attend class if they are ill; work missed will be made up without penalty later a time arranged by mutual agreement.

Texts:

Walter Kaufmann, editor, Existentialism from Dostoevsky to Sartre
Friedrich Nietzsche, Twilight of the Idols
Albert Camus, Resistance, Rebellion, and Death
Jorge Luis Borges, A Personal Anthology
Readings

January

4 Introduction
6 Introduction
9 Walter Kaufmann, ed., Existentialism from Dostoevsky to Sartre (hereafter “EDS”),
11 Dostoevsky, pp. 52-62
13 EDS, Kierkegaard, pp. 85-94
16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
18 EDS, Kierkegaard, pp. 94-105
20 EDS, “pp. 105-120
25 Nietzsche, Twilight of the Idols, “Foreword”
27 “ “ “The Problem of Socrates”
30 “ “ “Reason in Philosophy”

February

1 Nietzsche, Twilight of the Idols, “Morality as Anti-Nature”
3 “ “ “The Four Great Errors”
6 “ “ “The ‘Improvers’ of Mankind”
8 “ “ “What the Germans Lack”
13 “ “ “What I Owe the Ancients”
15 “ “ “The Hammer Speaks”
17 EDS, Ortega, “Man Has No Nature,” pp.152-182
20 Simone de Beauvoir, The Ethics of Ambiguity (online)
22 “ “ “ “
24 “ “ “ “
27 “ “ “ The Second Sex (online)

March

1 Midterm Essay Test
3 Discussion
13 EDS, Sartre, “Portrait of the Anti-Semite,” pp. 329-345
15 EDS, “Existentialism is a Humanism,” pp. 345-350
17 EDS, “ pp. 350-360
20 EDS, “ pp. 360-369
24 Camus, Resistance, Rebellion, and Death, pp. 57-74
27 Camus, “ “ “ pp. 111-125
31 Camus, “ “ “ pp. 249-263

April

3 Camus, “ ” “ pp. 263-272
5 Borges, A Personal Anthology, pp.44-54
7 Borges, “ “ “ pp. 54-64
10 Borges, “ “ pp. 35-43
19 Conclusion
22 Final Exam: Alternative Date. Griffin-Floyd 303 at noon.
26 Final Exam: Regularly Scheduled Date, 12”30-2:30, LEI 242
References

Plato, Apology (399 BCE)
St. Augustine, Confessions (400)
Blaise Pascal, Thoughts (1662)
Immanuel Kant, “The End of All Things” (1794)
Soren Kierkegaard, Fear and Trembling
   Philosophical Fragments
   Concluding Unscientific Postscript
Karl Marx, Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts (1844)
Friedrich Nietzsche, Human, All Too Human (1878)
   The Gay Science (1882)
   Beyond Good and Evil (1886)
   Twilight of the Idols (1888)
   The Anti-Christ (1888)
Martin Heidegger, Being and Time
   Discourse on Thinking
   The Question Concerning Technology
Hannah Arendt, The Human Condition
   Eichmann in Jerusalem
Karl Jaspers, Reason and Existenz
   The Question of German Guilt
Jean-Paul Sartre, Being and Nothingness (1943)
   Existentialism Is a Humanism (1945)
   Critique of Dialectical Reason (1960)
   Search for a Method (1960)
   Colonialism and Neocolonialism (1964)
   The Words (1964)
Simone de Beauvoir, The Second Sex (1949)
   The Ethics of Ambiguity (1948)
   Force of Circumstance (1963)
Albert Camus, The Myth of Sisyphus and Other Essays
   The Rebel
   Resistance, Rebellion, and Death
Maurice Merleau-Ponty, Phenomenology of Perception
   The Primacy of Perception
   The Visible and the Invisible
Gabriel Marcel, Creative Fidelity
   The Existential Background of Human Dignity
Jose Ortega y Gasset, The Revolt of the Masses (1930)
   History as a System (1941)
Miguel de Unamuno, Tragic Sense of Life
   The Agony of Christianity
Frantz Fanon, The Wretched of the Earth (1961)
   Black Skin, White Masks
Steve Biko, I Write What I Like
Paulo Freire, The Pedagogy of the Oppressed
Pablo Neruda, Poems: “La Palabra,” “El Pueblo”
   Memoirs
Jorge Luis Borges, A Personal Anthology (1961)
   Conversations (1998)
The following grade scale will be used to assign final letter grades for the course. See UF grading policies for assigning grade points at: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Scale</th>
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<tr>
<td>100-93=A</td>
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<td>92-90=A-</td>
<td>A-=3.67</td>
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<td>B+=3.33</td>
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<tr>
<td>85-82=B</td>
<td>B=3.00</td>
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<td>81-79=B-</td>
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<td>78-75=C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>75-72=C</td>
<td>C=2.00</td>
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<td>71-69=C-</td>
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<tr>
<td>59-0=E</td>
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**ACADEMIC HONESTY.** UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge, which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class. Plagiarism on any assignment will automatically result in a grade of "E" for the course. Plagiarism is defined in the University of Florida's Student Honor Code as follows: "A student shall not represent as the student’s own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes (but is not limited to): a. Quoting oral or written materials, whether published or unpublished, without proper attribution. b. Submitting a document or assignment which in whole or in part is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment not authored by the student." Students found guilty of academic misconduct will be prosecuted in accordance with the procedures specified in the UF honesty policy.

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES.** Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drp/). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

**ONLINE COURSE EVALUATION.** Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at https://evaluations.ufl.edu. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester. Students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results.