

Philosophy 4002: Existentialism
Fall 2008: MWF 2:15pm – 3:20pm
Classroom: Hum 111
Office: MWF 1:30pm to 2pm, TTH 9–9:45am, and by appt.

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Texts: Existentialism: Basic Writings Second Edition Charles Guignon and Derk Pereboom, editors (Hackett, 2001, 0-87220-595-9), Irrational Man: Study in Existential Philosophy, William Barrett (Anchor 1990, 0-385-03138-6), Notes From Underground and The Double, Fyodor Dostoyevsky (Penguin, 2003, 978-0-140-44252-6), The Stranger, Albert Camus (Random House, 1989, 0-679-72020), The Immoralist Andre Gide, (Penguin, 2000, 0-14-218002-5), The Unbearable Lightness of Being, Milan Kundera (Harper and Row, 1999, 0-06-093213-9)

Class requirements: four take home exams after each section of the course (each will cover appropriate readings, novels and films), and one five page topic paper on a theme or author covered in this class (chosen by you and approved by me) due on the date of the final exam. Your final grade will be determined by giving 20% to each of the above written items. Attendance and class participation will also be used in borderline cases.

- 8.27 Class introductions, background lecture.
- 8.29 B ch1: The Advent of Existentialism (3-22), B ch2: The Encounter with Nothingness (23-41), GP: Introduction: The Legacy of Existentialism (first 2 sections), pp. (xiii – xvii)
- 9.1 **Labor Day**
- 9.3 B ch4: Hebrew and Hellenism (69-91), B ch5: Christian Sources (92-119)
- 9.5 GP: Introduction: The Legacy of Existentialism (last five sections), pp. (xvii - xxxviii)

Film: Crimes and Misdemeanors, directed by Woody Allen, 1989 (104 minutes).

Section 1: Kierkegaard.

- 9.8 GP, excerpts from Hegel's Phenomenology of Spirit (19-25)
- 9.10 Fear and Trembling: Preface and Panegyric (26-35)
- 9.12 Fear and Trembling: Problemata (35-55)
- 9.15 Fear and Trembling: Problem I (55-66)
- 9.17 Fear and Trembling: Problem II (66-77)
- 9.19 The Sickness Unto Death (78-84)

Film: Hiroshima Mon Amour, directed by Alain Resnais, 1959 (90 minutes).

- 9.22 Concluding Unscientific Postscript (85-92)
- 9.24 GP, Kierkegaard Introduction (1-17), B Kierkegaard (150-176)
- 9.26 Review

Section II: Nietzsche.

9.29 B ch6: The Flight From Laputa, Dostoyevsky, Notes From Underground, Chapter 1, 15-46

10.1 Dostoyevsky, Notes From Underground, Chapter 2, 47-123.

10.3 Review

Film: White Nights, directed by Luchino Visconti, 1960 (97 minutes)

10.6 B ch3: The Testimony of Modern Art, GP, Birth of Tragedy, 119-122

10.8 The Gay Science, Preface through #1, 123-131

10.10 The Gay Science, #54 through #125, 131-141

10.13 The Gay Science, #270 through #346, 142-154

10.15 The Gay Science, # 347 through #355, 154-161

10.17 The Gay Science, #356 through #383, 161-171

Film: Breathless, directed by Jean-Luc Godard, 1960 (90 minutes).

10.20 **Fall Break**

10.22 Twilight of the Idols, 172-181

10.24 B ch8 Nietzsche, 177-208, GP Nietzsche Introduction, 93-118

10.27 Gide, The Immoralist

10.29 Gide, The Immoralist

10.31 Review

Film: Cool Hand Luke, directed by Stuart Rosenberg, 1967 (126 minutes).

Section III: Heidegger

11.3 Being and Time, On Being 211-219

11.5 Being and Time, Dasein 219-229

11.7 Being and Time, Dasein 230-246

11.10 Being and Time, Dasein 246-254

11.12 GP, Heidegger Introduction, 183-210

11.14 Review

Film: 21 Grams, directed by Alejandro Inarritu, 2003 (125 minutes).

Section IV: Sartre.

- 11.17 Husserl “Phenomenology and Anthropology,” 276-289
- 11.19 The Humanism of Existentialism 290-308
- 11.21 Being and Nothingness 309-328

Film: Fade, directed by Christopher Beer, 2006 (70 minutes).

- 11.24 Being and Nothingness 328-352
- 11.26 Being and Nothingness 352-362
- 11.28 **Thanksgiving**

- 12.1 Camus, The Stranger
- 12.3 Review
- 12.5 Kundera, The Unbearable Lightness of Being Part 1 and 2, 1-78

Film: My Life As A Dog, directed by Lasse Hallstrom, 1987 (101 minutes).

- 12.8 Kundera, The Unbearable Lightness of Being Part 3 and 4, 81-171
- 12.10 Kundera, The Unbearable Lightness of Being Part 5 and 6, 175-278
- 12.12 Kundera, The Unbearable Lightness of Being Part 7, 281-314

12.18 **Final:** 8:30 to 10.30am (Thursday)

University of Minnesota Policies:

Grading standards (definition of grades):

A: represents outstanding achievement relative to the course requirements.

B: represents achievement significantly above the course requirements.

C: represents achievement meeting the course requirements in every respect.

D: represents achievement worthy of credit, but failing to meet all course requirements.

S: represents satisfactory achievement, which is equivalent to a C- or better.

F (or N): represents failure (or no credit) because the work was either (1) completed but not worthy of credit or (2) not completed and no incomplete was given.

I (Incomplete): assigned at the discretion of the instructor when, due to extraordinary circumstances, e.g., hospitalization, a student is prevented from completing the work of the course on time. This requires a written agreement between instructor and student.

Make-up exam policy: Make-up exams are available only if a student has an excellent reason and arrangements are made either before the missed exam or as quickly as humanly possible thereafter.

Senate student academic workload policy: For undergraduate courses, as one credit is defined as equivalent to an average of three hours of “learning effort” per week necessary for an average student to achieve an average grade (C) in the course, you should expect in this four credit course to spend an additional eight hours a week on course work outside the classroom.

Statement on accommodations for students with disabilities: Please contact the Disability Services Office, 589-6163, Room 362 Briggs Library to discuss and arrange for accommodation needs.

Statement on classroom conduct: Students are expected to interact with the instructor and other students with respect and courtesy. Students should attend every class session prepared to learn and work.

Participation in class is expected, which includes both speaking up and listening. Give class your full attention while here. Complete all assignments including the reading in a timely fashion. Do not use cell phones or recording equipment to class without the instructor's consent. Students whose behavior is disruptive either to the instructor or to other students will be asked to leave. Students whose behavior suggests the need for counseling or other assistance may be referred to counseling services. Students whose behavior violates the University Student Conduct Code will be subject to disciplinary action.

Statement on academic misconduct: Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis. In this course, a student responsible for scholastic dishonesty can be assigned a penalty up to and including an "F" or "N" for the course. If you have any questions regarding the expectations for a specific assignment or exam, ask.

Statement regarding sexual harassment: University policy prohibits sexual harassment as defined by the University of Minnesota Regents' policy:

<http://www1.umn.edu/regents/policies/humanresources/SexHarassment.pdf>