



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
Department of Philosophy

PHIL 359 Lec 01

Existentialism

Winter 2021

COURSE OUTLINE

MWF 13:00 - 13:50

Mark Migotti
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COURSE DELIVERY INFORMATION

Synchronous. The class sessions will be conducted on Zoom, so the technology requirements for this course are that one be able regularly to participate in Zoom sessions.

PREREQUISITE(S)

There are no prerequisites for this course.

COURSE INFORMATION

In this course we will study contributions to philosophy in the Existentialist tradition made by Søren Kierkegaard, Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir and (to a lesser extent) Martin Heidegger.

COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Knowledge of core ideas of Kierkegaard, Sartre, de Beauvoir.
- Understanding the distinction between existentialism and essentialism.
- A grasp of how the existentialist tradition fits with other schools of philosophy.
- Ability to critically digest, interpret, and analyze philosophical writings of enduring value.
- Ability to write a convincing argument that takes adequate account of alternative positions.
- An enhanced ability to think through philosophical issues.

REQUIRED/RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS, READINGS AND MATERIALS

Available at the University of Calgary Bookstore

Søren Kierkegaard. *The Sickness Unto Death*. Penguin.

Jean-Paul Sartre. *Being and Nothingness*. Washington Square Press.

Simone de Beauvoir. *The Second Sex*. Knopf-Doubleday

COURSE ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

- 2 Essays for Thought @ 15% each: = 30% Due dates to be announced.
- Exam (24 hours to complete, beginning Wednesday, March 31st) April 1st: 20%
- PHIL 395 Notebook (Minimum one entry per month, for each of January, February, March, and April), Due Thursday April 15th: 15%
- Ongoing Engagement (Breakdown and specifics provided in Week One): 15%

Optional mini term paper: 20%

- Course work is to be submitted on the D2L site's Dropbox, and may be e-mailed to the instructor directly if needed

- A passing grade on each component of the course is required to pass the course as a whole.
- Each student is entitled to up to two days of grace beyond the specified deadline for assignments, to be used at their discretion throughout the semester. Students do not need to request permission for those days. Late work beyond the two days will be penalized at the rate of 1% of the course grade for each day late.
- **Rising trajectory policy:** In cases of notably superior performance on the term paper and final exam, I will reweight these components.
- To calculate your grade as you go along, I will be using the following correspondences:

A+ 90-100	B+ 75-79	C+ 60-64	D+ 45-49
A 85-89	B 70-74	C 55-59	D 40-44
A- 80-84	B- 65-69	C- 50-54	F 0-39

- There will be no registrar scheduled final exam.

IMPORTANT DEPARTMENTAL, FACULTY AND UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

Academic Accommodations

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures. The student accommodation policy can be found at ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf. Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a protected ground other than disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their instructor.

Absence or Missed Course Assessments

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructors as soon as possible. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, instructors may decide that any arrangements made can take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test.

Student Support and Resources

Full details and information about the following resources can be found at ucalgary.ca/Registrar/registration/course-outlines

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success Centre
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk

Academic Advising

If you are a student in the Faculty of Arts, you can speak to an academic advisor in the Arts Students' Centre about course planning, course selection, registration, program progression and more. Visit the Faculty of Arts website at arts.ucalgary.ca/advising for contact details and information regarding common academic concerns.

For questions specific to the philosophy program, please visit phil.ucalgary.ca. Further academic guidance is available by contacting David Dick (Undergraduate Program Director dgdick@ucalgary.ca) or Jeremy Fantl (Honours Advisor jfantl@ucalgary.ca). If you have questions regarding registration, please email Rebecca Lesser (Undergraduate Program Administrator phildept@ucalgary.ca).

Writing Assessment and Support

The assessment of all written assignments—and, to a lesser extent, written exam responses—is based in part on writing skills. This includes correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.), as well as general clarity and organization. Research papers must include a thorough and accurate citation of sources. Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services for assistance. For more information, and other services offered by the Student Success Centre, please visit ucalgary.ca/ssc.

Required Technology

In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;
- A current and updated web browser;
- Webcam (built-in or external);
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
- Broadband internet connection.

Most current laptops will have a built-in webcam, speaker and microphone.

Responsible Use of D2L

Important information and communication about this course will be posted on D2L (Desire2Learn), UCalgary's online learning management system. Visit ucalgary.service-now.com/it for how-to information and technical assistance.

All users of D2L are bound by the guidelines on the responsible use of D2L posted here: <https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/commitment-to-the-responsible-use-of-d2l/>. The instructor may establish additional specific course policies for D2L, Zoom, and any other technologies used to support remote learning. Instructional materials, including audio or video recordings of lectures, may not be posted outside of the course D2L site. Students violating this policy are subject to discipline under the [University of Calgary's Non-Academic Misconduct policy](#).

Media Recording

Please refer to the following statement on media recording of students: https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP_FINAL.pdf

Academic Misconduct/Honesty

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is as an extremely serious academic offense, the penalty for which will be an F on the assignment or an F in the course, and possibly a disciplinary sanction such as probation, suspension, or expulsion. For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html.

Intellectual honesty requires that your work include adequate referencing to sources. Plagiarism occurs when you do not acknowledge or correctly reference your sources. If you have questions about referencing, please consult your instructor.

University Policies

The Instructor Intellectual Property Policy is available at ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/Intellectual%20Property%20Policy.pdf

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act, as outlined at ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip. The instructor (or TA) must return graded assignments *directly* to the student UNLESS written permission to do otherwise has been provided.

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright-policy.pdf) and requirements of the copyright act (laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html).