



FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 399.4 Lec 1
Topics in Philosophy: Existentialism

Winter Term 2017
Course Outline

Time: Tues and Thurs 11:00-12:15 Location: SA 121

Instructor: L. Markotic
Office: Soc Sci 1216
Office Phone: 403-220-5539
Email: lmarkoti@ucalgary.ca
Office Hour: Thurs: 12:30-1:30

Course Description

This course will examine the thought of major philosophers whose work has been considered “existentialist”: Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Heidegger, Sartre, Camus, and de Beauvoir. We shall study what is distinctive in each philosopher as well as how each draws on, develops, and responds to previous philosophers. We shall further consider the existentialist themes in writings by Dostoyevsky, Kafka, Ralph Ellison, Charles Baudelaire, Charlotte Perkins Gilman. Finally, we shall analyze instances of the existentialist concept of “bad faith.”

Course Learning Outcomes

- Students will read difficult, complex books/essays that they might not initially understand.
 - Further, students will learn to determine whether the book/essay is positioning itself against another view, either explicitly or implicitly, and be able to state what this view is.
 - Finally, students will acquire the ability to reread and analyze these books/essays on their own and be able to articulate the major and minor arguments made to support the overall argument.
- Students will be able to ask probing and pertinent questions about any material that they do not understand, or ideas that confuse them, or viewpoints with which they disagree. Students will realize that all questions are good questions (with the exception of: “What did we do last class?”).
- Students will learn to write essays that contain clear, convincing, grammatically correct arguments.
- Students will learn why Existentialist Philosophy is such an important and influential movement, and what the distinctions are among what has broadly been characterized as “Existentialism.”

Required Texts:

Books

Beauvoir, *The Woman Destroyed*. Pantheon.
Camus, *The Outsider*. Trans. Sandra Smith. Penguin.
Dostoyevsky, *Notes from the Underground*. Vintage.
Kierkegaard, *Fear and Trembling*. Penguin.
Sartre, *Essays in Existentialism*. Carol Publishing Corporation.

Selections posted on D2L

Nietzsche, from *The Gay Science*: aphorisms §125 (the Madman), §50, §116, §117

---. from *Beyond Good and Evil*: aphorisms §5, §6, §186, §187

Kafka, "Before the Law"

Heidegger, from *Being and Time*: §9 Analytic of Da-sein; §40 *Angst*; § 51, 52, 53 "Death"

Ralph Ellison, from *Invisible Man*: "Prologue"

Simone de Beauvoir, from *The Second Sex*: pp. 181-86, 128-33, 139-44,

Baudelaire, "To the Reader"

Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper"

Camus, "The Guest"

Course Assessment:

- **First paper** (approx. 1200-1500 words): **25%** – due Tues, Feb 7th at the beginning of class.
- **In-class test** (Open book): **25%** – Tues, March 7th.
 - This in-class test **must** be written on this date unless medical documentation is provided.
- **Take-home Exam Essay** (approx. 1200-1500 words): **35%** – due Thu, April 13th at 4:00pm in the drop box, 12th Floor of Social Sciences.
- **Participation: 15%**. All students are expected to attend regularly, having completed the readings beforehand, and to ask questions or contribute to the discussion.

There will be NO Registrar Scheduled Final Examination.

Writing and the grading thereof is a factor in the evaluation of your work. For further explanation, see the University Calendar: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>

Letter Grade Conversion Table

Grades will be calculated as follows:

F = 0	C- = 62	B- = 72	A- = 82
D = 55	C = 65	B = 75	A = 85
D+ = 58	C+ = 68	B+ = 78	A+ = 90

Final Grades will be assigned according to the ranges below:

F = 0-50	C- = 60-62.9	B- = 70-72.9	A- = 80-83.9
D = 50-56.9	C = 63-66.9	B = 73-76.9	A = 83-86.9
D+ = 57-59.9	C+ = 67-69.9	B+ = 77-79.9	A+ = 87-100

Policy on Late Assignments

The essay is due at the beginning of class. The in-class test **must** be written on **March 7th**. The final take-home exam essay must be placed in the Department Dropbox on the 12th floor of the Social Sciences Building by 4:00 pm on the due date. Late and emailed papers will not be accepted.

IMPORTANT DEPARTMENTAL, FACULTY AND UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

Academic Honesty

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as an extremely serious academic offence, the penalty for which may be an F on the assignment, an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw from the University. See the relevant sections on 'Academic Misconduct' in the current University Calendar. 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 correct referencing, consult your instructor.

Academic Accommodation

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services. SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For more information on support services and

accommodations for students with disabilities, visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>. Students who require accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their instructor. The full policy on student accommodations is available at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf

D2L Help

Desire2Learn is UCalgary's online learning management system. Important information and communications about this course may be posted on D2L. Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/it/services/d2l> for help.

General Academic Concerns and Program Planning

Have a question but not sure where to start? The Arts Students Centre is your information resource for everything in the Faculty of Arts. Drop in at SS102, call 403-220-3580, or email ascarts@ucalgary.ca. Advisors in the ASC can also provide assistance and advice in planning your program through to graduation. Visit the Faculty of Arts website at <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> for detailed information on common academic concerns

Advice on Philosophy Courses

You may find answers to your more specific questions about a philosophy degree on the Department of Philosophy's website <http://phil.ucalgary.ca>, or contact one of Philosophy's Undergraduate Advisors. Jeremy Fantl (jfantl@ucalgary.ca), Reid Buchanan (buchanan@ucalgary.ca), Megan Delehanty (mdelehan@ucalgary.ca).

Registration Overload/Prereq Waivers

If you are seeking to register in a Philosophy course that is full or to get permission to waive the prereqs for a course, email the Department Manager, Merlette Schnell (schnell@ucalgary.ca). Include the specific course information and your UCID number in your request.

Writing

This course will include written assignments. Faculty policy directs that all written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented. Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services and other Student Success Centre Services, located on the 3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library. Writing Support Services assist with a variety of assignments, from essays to lab reports. Students can book 30-minute one-on-one appointments online, sign up for 15-minute drop-in appointments, and register for a variety of writing workshops. For more information on this and other Student Success Centre services, please visit www.ucalgary.ca/ssc.

Protection of Privacy

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. The Department of Philosophy ensures the student's right to privacy by requiring all graded assignments be returned to the student directly from the instructor or teaching assistant.

Internet and Electronic Communication Devices

The instructor reserves the right to establish course policies regarding the use of devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartbooks. If allowed, these devices must be used exclusively for instructional purposes and must not cause disruption to the instructor or to fellow students. Cell phones and paging devices should be set to silent mode during lectures. Audio or video recording of lectures is not permitted without the written permission of the instructor. Students violating this policy are subject to discipline under the University of Calgary's Non-Academic Misconduct policy

Emergency Evacuation:

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>. Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

Other Helpful Contacts

- Safewalk and Campus Security: 403-220-5333.
- Faculty of Arts Student Representatives: 403-220-6552, arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca.
- Student Ombudsman: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>