EXISTENTIALISM

Philosophy 360
Fall 2010 Syllabus

MWF 12:00—12:50 PM
Kanaka‘ole Hall 110

Dr. Timothy J. Freeman
Old Gymn #2
office: 933-9920
cell: 345-5231
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Office Hours: Monday through Friday 1:00-1:50pm, or by appointment

CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION

PHIL 360 Existentialism
The themes which recur in the works of existential philosophers from the 19th century to the present. Pre: Junior standing or consent of the instructor.

REQUIRED TEXTS


WEB SITE
http://tfreeman.net/Philosophy/360.html
COURSE CONTENT & OBJECTIVES
This course will examine one of the important movements in contemporary Continental Philosophy. We will begin with the 19th Century precursors, Kierkegaard, Dostoevsky, and Nietzsche. We will then move on to cover the important 20th century thinkers Heidegger and Sartre and Camus. The primary aim of the course is to introduce the students to the broad outlines and some of the key figures in contemporary Continental Philosophy. By the end of the course the students will be expected to have attained and demonstrated a satisfactory level of competence in understanding the main themes of Existentialism and the key ideas of a number of important philosophers associated with the movement of Existentialism. Through classroom discussion and written assignments the students will be expected to develop their critical thinking as well as their oral and written communication skills.

GRADING POLICY
The final grade will be based on the following

1. The average of 3 short essay assignments. 40%
2. Essay Paper: a 7-10 page essay paper. 60%
3. Attendance is necessary. Frequent absences from class will negatively impact your grade.

Grading will be determined according to the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>95-100 Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84-86 Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74-76 Satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-70 Poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59 Failure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COURSE FORMAT
Classroom sessions will be both lecture and discussion with emphasis on informal lecture. There will be occasional films and powerpoint presentations.

CLASSROOM POLICIES
All students are expected to come to class on time and to bring their books as well as paper and pen suitable for taking notes of class lectures. Active cellular telephones or paging devices are not permitted in class. No consumption of food is allowed during the class period.

STUDENT CONDUCT CODE
All students are expected to adhere to the Student Conduct Code as explained on pages 53-54 of the 2009-2010 UH Hilo Catalogue.

ADVISING STATEMENT
Advising is a very important resource designed to help students complete the requirements of the University and their individual majors. Students should consult with their advisor at least once a semester to decide on courses, check progress towards graduation, and discuss career options and other educational opportunities provided by UH-Hilo. Advising is a shared responsibility, but students have final responsibility for meeting degree requirements.

SPECIAL NEEDS
Any student with a documented disability who would like to request accommodations should contact the University Disability Services Office - Hale Kauanoe A Wing Lounge, 933-0816 (V), 933-3334 (TTY), shirachi@hawaii.edu - as early in the semester as possible.
## PART ONE: 19th Century

### Week 1: Introduction to Existentialism
- **Monday, 08/23**: Course Introduction and Orientation
- **Wednesday, 08/25**: The Legacy of Existentialism: Main Themes
  
  Basic Writings (xiii-xxxviii)
- **Friday, 08/27**: Existentialism and Its Critics

### Week 2: Background to Existentialism
- **Monday, 08/30**: Kant & Romanticism
- **Wednesday, 09/01**: Hegel
  
  Basic Writings (19-25)
- **Friday, 09/03**: Anti-Hegelianism: Marx, Schopenhauer, Keirkegaard
  
  Basic Writings (1-17)

### Week 3: Kierkegaard
- **Monday, 09/06**: **Holiday: Labor Day**
- **Wednesday, 09/08**: Fear and Trembling: A Panegyric upon Abraham
  
  Basic Writings (26-55)
- **Friday, 09/10**: Fear and Trembling: Problem I
  
  Basic Writings (55-66)

**September 13: last day to withdraw from courses without a “W”**

### Week 4: Kierkegaard
- **Monday, 09/13**: Fear and Trembling: Problem II
  
  Basic Writings (66-77)
- **Wednesday, 09/15**: The Sickness unto Death
  
  Basic Writings (78-84)
- **Friday, 09/17**: Concluding Unscientific Postscript
  
  Basic Writings (85-92)

### Week 5: Dostoevsky
- **Monday, 09/20**: Notes from Underground
  
  online text
- **Wednesday, 09/22**: “The Grand Inquisitor” from The Brothers Karamazov
  
  online text
- **Friday, 09/24**: “The Grand Inquisitor” from The Brothers Karamazov

### Week 6: Nietzsche
- **Monday, 09/27**: Introduction: The Birth of Tragedy
  
  Basic Writings (93-122)
- **Wednesday, 09/29**: The Gay Science
  
  Basic Writings (123-171)
- **Friday, 10/01**: The Gay Science
  
  Basic Writings (123-171)

### Week 7: Nietzsche
- **Monday, 10/04**: Thus Spoke Zarathustra (the Overhuman)
  
  (Prologue)
- **Wednesday, 10/06**: Thus Spoke Zarathustra (the will to power)
  
  (I § 1,3,4,8, 15,17,22)
- **Friday, 10/08**: Thus Spoke Zarathustra (the eternal recurrence)
  
  (II §9,12,19,20; III §1,2,11,16)

### Week 8: Nietzsche
- **Monday, 10/11**: Beyond Good and Evil
  
  online text
- **Wednesday, 10/13**: Twilight of the Idols
  
  Basic Writings (172-181)
- **Friday, 10/15**: Twilight of the Idols
  
  Basic Writings (172-181)

**Last Day to Withdraw from Courses with “W”**
## Fall 2010 Existentialism Course Schedule

### PART TWO: 20th Century

#### Week 9: Heidegger
- **M 10/18** Introduction  
  *Basic Writings* (183-210)
- **W 10/20** *Being and Time: The Question of Being*  
  *Basic Writings* (211-219)
- **F 10/22** *Being and Time: Analysis of Dasein*  
  *Basic Writings* (219-246)

#### Week 10: Heidegger
- **M 10/25** *Being and Time: Analysis of Dasein*  
  *Basic Writings* (219-246)
- **W 10/27** *Being and Time: Dasein and Temporality*  
  *Basic Writings* (246-254)
- **F 10/29** *Being and Time: Dasein and Temporality*  
  *Basic Writings* (246-254)

#### Week 11: Sartre
- **M 11/01** Introduction  
  *Basic Writings* (255-289)
- **W 11/03** “The Humanism of Existentialism”  
  *Basic Writings* (290-308)
- **F 11/05** “The Humanism of Existentialism”  
  *Basic Writings* (290-308)

#### Week 12: Sartre
- **M 11/08** *Being and Nothingness*  
  *Basic Writings* (309-362)
- **W 11/10** *Being and Nothingness*  
  *Basic Writings* (309-362)
- **F 11/12** *Being and Nothingness*  
  *Basic Writings* (309-362)

#### Week 13: Camus
- **M 11/15** *The Plague*
- **W 11/17** *The Plague*
- **F 11/19** “The Myth of Sisyphus”  
  online text

#### Week 14: After Existentialism: Postmodernism
- **M 11/22** Heidegger: “Letter on Humanism”  
  online text
- **W 11/24** Heidegger: “Letter on Humanism”  
  online text
- **F 11/26** **Non-Instructional Day (no classes)**

#### Week 15: After Existentialism: Postmodernism
- **M 11/29** Foucault: “Nietzsche, Genealogy, History”  
  online text
- **W 12/01** Foucault: “Nietzsche, Genealogy, History”  
  online text
- **F 12/03** Foucault: “Truth and Power”  
  online text

#### Week 16: After Existentialism: Postmodernism
- **M 12/06** Derrida: “The Ends of Man”  
  online text
- **W 12/08** Derrida: “The Ends of Man”  
  online text

#### Final Exam
- **M 12/13** (11:50 am — 1:50 pm)

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**schedule is subject to revision**