



Wheat Field Under Threatening Skies, Vincent Van Gogh, 1890

EXISTENTIALISM

*Philosophy 360
Fall 2010 Syllabus*

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

Dr. Timothy J. Freeman
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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

Existentialism: Basic Writings, 2nd edition, ed. Charles Guignon and Derk Pereboom. Hackett Publishing Company, 2001.

Thus Spoke Zarathustra, Friedrich Nietzsche. Translated by Graham Parkes. Oxford University Press, 2005.

The Plague, Albert Camus. Translated by Stuart Gilbert. Random House, 1991.

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:

A	95-100 Excellent	C+	77-79
A-	90-94	C	74-76 Satisfactory
B+	87-89	C-	70-73
B	84-86 Good	D	60-70 Poor
B-	80-83	F	0-59 Failure

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 Kauano'e A Wing Lounge, 933-0816 (V), 933-3334 (TTY), shirachi@hawaii.edu - as early in the semester as possible.

PART ONE: 19th CenturyWeek 1: Introduction to Existentialism

M 08/23	<i>Course Introduction and Orientation</i>	
W 08/25	<i>The Legacy of Existentialism: Main Themes</i>	<i>Basic Writings</i> (xiii-xxxviii)
F 08/27	<i>Existentialism and Its Critics</i>	

Week 2: Background to Existentialism

M 08/30	<i>Kant & Romanticism</i>	
W 09/01	<i>Hegel</i>	<i>Basic Writings</i> (19-25)
F 09/03	<i>Anti-Hegelianism: Marx, Schopenhauer, Keirkegaard</i>	<i>Basic Writings</i> (1-17)

Week 3: Kierkegaard

M 09/06	**Holiday: Labor Day**	
W 09/08	<i>Fear and Trembling: A Panegyric upon Abraham</i>	<i>Basic Writings</i> (26-55)
F 09/10	<i>Fear and Trembling: Problem I</i>	<i>Basic Writings</i> (55-66)
	**September 13: last day to withdraw from courses without a "W"	

Week 4: Kierkegaard

M 09/13	<i>Fear and Trembling: Problem II</i>	<i>Basic Writings</i> (66-77)
W 09/15	<i>The Sickness unto Death</i>	<i>Basic Writings</i> (78-84)
F 09/17	<i>Concluding Unscientific Postscript</i>	<i>Basic Writings</i> (85-92)

Week 5: Dostoevsky

M 09/20	<i>Notes from Underground</i>	online text
W 09/22	"The Grand Inquisitor" from <i>The Brothers Karamazov</i>	online text
F 09/24	"The Grand Inquisitor" from <i>The Brothers Karamazov</i>	

Week 6: Nietzsche

M 09/27	Introduction: <i>The Birth of Tragedy</i>	<i>Basic Writings</i> (93-122)
W 09/29	<i>The Gay Science</i>	<i>Basic Writings</i> (123-171)
F 10/01	<i>The Gay Science</i>	<i>Basic Writings</i> (123-171)

Week 7: Nietzsche

M 10/04	<i>Thus Spoke Zarathustra</i> (the Overhuman)	(Prologue)
W 10/06	<i>Thus Spoke Zarathustra</i> (the will to power)	(I § 1,3,4,8, 15,17,22)
F 10/08	<i>Thus Spoke Zarathustra</i> (the eternal recurrence)	(II §9,12,19,20; III §1,2,11,16)

Week 8: Nietzsche

M 10/11	<i>Beyond Good and Evil</i>	online text
W 10/13	<i>Twilight of the Idols</i>	<i>Basic Writings</i> (172-181)
F 10/15	<i>Twilight of the Idols</i>	<i>Basic Writings</i> (172-181)
	Last Day to Withdraw from Courses with "W"*	

PART TWO: 20th CenturyWeek 9: Heidegger

M 10/18	Introduction	<i>Basic Writings</i> (183-210)
W 10/20	<i>Being and Time: The Question of Being</i>	<i>Basic Writings</i> (211-219)
F 10/22	<i>Being and Time: Analysis of Dasein</i>	<i>Basic Writings</i> (219-246)

Week 10: Heidegger

M 10/25	<i>Being and Time: Analysis of Dasein</i>	<i>Basic Writings</i> (219-246)
W 10/27	<i>Being and Time: Dasein and Temporality</i>	<i>Basic Writings</i> (246-254)
F 10/29	<i>Being and Time: Dasein and Temporality</i>	<i>Basic Writings</i> (246-254)

Week 11: Sartre

M 11/01	Introduction	<i>Basic Writings</i> (255-289)
W 11/03	“The Humanism of Existentialism”	<i>Basic Writings</i> (290-308)
F 11/05	“The Humanism of Existentialism”	<i>Basic Writings</i> (290-308)

Week 12: Sartre

M 11/08	<i>Being and Nothingness</i>	<i>Basic Writings</i> (309-362)
W 11/10	<i>Being and Nothingness</i>	<i>Basic Writings</i> (309-362)
F 11/12	<i>Being and Nothingness</i>	<i>Basic Writings</i> (309-362)

Week 13: Camus

M 11/15	<i>The Plague</i>	
W 11/17	<i>The Plague</i>	
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