

Dr. Thomas Auxter
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Office hours: T 11:40-12:30,
R 2:00-2:50, and by appointment
Griffin-Floyd 115C
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Existentialism
PHP 3786 (23489)
Spring 2020
3 credits
AND 0019

In this course we will examine the philosophical themes and concepts of existentialism in context -- including historical, geographical, cultural, religious, social, and political contexts. The goal is to evaluate contributions to philosophical debates about reality, knowledge, personal identity, sensibilities, consciousness, values, and commitment. We will read both classical and contemporary texts.

Topics:

- **What is existentialism?**
- **Who are the first existentialists?**
- **What are the historical conditions that give rise to existentialism as a movement or school of thought?**
- **Who are the major existentialist thinkers receiving the attention of the literary world? Of the philosophical world?**
- **What are the main themes and approaches?**
- **How do existentialist ideas change traditional conceptions of the relationship between reason and faith?**
- **How are existentialist themes developed in European texts? In non-Western texts?**
- **How are existentialist values related to traditional Western values?**
- **What are the traditional Western roles for women? How do existentialists challenge this? How are gender differences regarded in each type of view?**
- **How are people who were colonized previously regarded in the traditional Western approach? How do existentialists connect issues about oppression with issues about freedom?**
- **How does existentialism change as it moves across national boundaries?**
- **How does existentialism change with time?**

Requirements:

There will be a midterm essay test and two essays written in a final examination. Each of the essays will count as one third of the grade. Students are expected to attend class. Attendance will be taken. Students are asked not to attend class if they are ill; work missed will be made up without penalty later at a time arranged by agreement through email.

Texts:

Walter Kaufmann, editor, *Existentialism from Dostoevsky to Sartre*
Friedrich Nietzsche, *Twilight of the Idols*
Albert Camus, *Resistance, Rebellion, and Death*
Jorge Luis Borges, *A Personal Anthology*

Readings

January

9 Plato, *Apology of Socrates* (online, Cornell University Press, pp. 1-23)

14 “ “

16 “ “

21 Kaufmann Walter, ed., *Existentialism from Dostoevsky to Sartre*
Dostoevsky, *Notes from Underground*, pp. 52-62

23 Kierkegaard (in *Existentialism*), pp. 83-94

“ pp. 95-101

28 “ pp. 105-114

30 “ pp. 114-120

Nietzsche (in *Existentialism*), pp. 121-133

February

4 Nietzsche, *Twilight of the Idols*, pp. 31-32, 39-44

“ “ pp. 41-49

6 pp. 52-57

9 pp. 58-65

pp. 66-77

11 pp. 82-84, 96-99,

13 pp. 103-122

18 Ortega, “Man Has No Nature,” pp. 152-157 (in *Existentialism*)

20 MIDTERM TEST

25 Sartre, “Portrait of an Anti-Semite,” pp. 329-336

27 pp. 337-345

March

2-6 Spring Break

10 Sartre, “Existentialism is a Humanism,” pp. 345-348

pp. 348-359

12 “ “ pp. 359-369

17 Camus, “The Myth of Sisyphus,” pp. 375-378

19 Simone de Beauvoir, *The Ethics of Ambiguity* (online)

24 Steve Biko, “Black Consciousness and the Quest for a True Humanity” (online)

26 Albert Camus, *Resistance, Rebellion, and Death*, “The Wager of our Generation,”
pp. 237-248

31 “ “ “ “Create Dangerously,” pp. 249-260

April

5 “ “ “ pp. 261-272

7 Jorge Luis Borges, *A Personal Anthology*, pp. 35-43

12 pp. 44-64

pp. 65-67

14 pp. 77-76

21 pp. 80-82

22 pp. 112-121, 200-201, 203

25 FINAL EXAMINATION: Alternate Date for Final, Noon-2pm, 303 Griffin-Floyd
30 FINAL EXAMINATION in classroom, 7:30-9:30am

Note: The University asks faculty to post information about the grading scale, academic honesty, students with disabilities, classroom policies, and online course evaluation that will be the basis for policies and decisions in the course. That information from the University follows. – T.A.

The following grade scale will be used to assign final letter grades for the course. See UF grading policies for assigning grade points at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

Grade Scale	Grade Value
100-93=A	A=4.0
92-90=A-	A-=3.67
89-86=B+	B+=3.33
85-82=B	B=3.00
81-79=B-	B-=2.67
78-75=C+	C+=2.33
75-72=C	C=2.00
71-69=C-	C-=1.67
68-66=D+	D+=1.33
65-62=D	D=1.00
61-60=D-	D-=0.67
59-0=E	E=0.00

ACADEMIC HONESTY. UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge, which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class. Plagiarism on any assignment will automatically result in a grade of "E" for the course. Plagiarism is defined in the University of Florida's Student Honor Code as follows: "A student shall not represent as the student's own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes (but is not limited to): a. Quoting oral or written materials, whether published or unpublished, without proper attribution. b. Submitting a document or assignment which in whole or in part is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment not authored by the student." Students found guilty of academic misconduct will be prosecuted in accordance with the procedures specified in the UF honesty policy.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drp/>). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

ONLINE COURSE EVALUATION. Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester. Students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are