

University of Calgary
Faculty of Humanities
Department of Religious Studies
Fall 2007

Revised September 7, 2007

Religious Studies 417.04 L01 Recent Religious Thought — Existentialism
R 11:00 – 1:45

Instructor: Dr. Morny Joy
Office: SS1318
Office Hours: R 3:30- 4:30
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Course Outline

This course will be an examination of the development and flourishing of a form of philosophy known as existentialism. Intimately connected with the idea of the “death of God”, it takes both atheistic and religious forms. Its major themes revolve around notions of identity, individual responsibility, intersubjectivity, and the relevance of philosophy for a meaningful life. This mode of philosophy will also be examined regarding any continuing relevance it may have for the contemporary world and questions of meaning and ethics.

Core Competencies

As this course is basically a seminar, students will be expected to undertake close readings of the assigned material and come to class prepared to discuss it. Basic skills required will be of both an analytical and discursive nature. Students will be expected to identify primary concepts and themes in primary source material. Written assignments will provide the students with the opportunity to hone their writing skills by cogent and well-organized reflective papers on information gained either from class discussions and/or research. A major essay will be required at the end of the term.

Books

1. One Course Package, entitled “Existentialism” that is available at the bookstore.
2. Paul S. MacDonald, The Existentialist Reader (Routledge)
3. Jean-Paul Sartre, Nausea
4. Paul Tillich, The Courage to Be

Assignments

1. Four position papers of 5 pages in length due on 27th Sept, 19th Oct, 9th Nov and 11th Dec
45%
2. One final essay of approximately 15-16 pages to be handed in on 14th December
45%
3. Class participation
10%

Assignments can only be handed in late without penalty if prior permission of the professor has been obtained.

Topics to be Discussed

Week One

Introduction; Overview of Dostoevsky, Nietzsche and Kierkegaard (package)

Week Two

Film on Nietzsche; Robert Skolowski on Phenomenology (package)

Week Three

David Cooper on Phenomenology (package); Husserl (package)

Week Four

Edith Stein (package); Gabriel Marcel (textbook and package)

Week Five

Heidegger (textbook); Heidegger (Barrett in package)

Week Six

Karl Jaspers (textbook); Film Heidegger and Existentialism

Week Seven

Hannah Arendt (package); Buber (package)

Week Eight

Sartre (textbook) and Nausea

Week Nine

Nausea and film on Sartre

Week Ten

De Beauvoir package and textbook

Week Eleven

Film on de Beauvoir; Tillich

Week Twelve

Tillich and Introduction to MacDonald's textbook.

Grading

A numerical mark will be given for each course requirement. A letter grade will be assigned on the following number and letter grade scheme:

A+	100 - 96	A	95 - 90	A-	89 - 85
B+	84 - 80	B	79 - 75	B-	74 - 70
C+	69 - 65	C	64 - 60	C-	59 - 55
D+	54 - 50	D	49 - 45	F	44 or less

N.B. Please note that all written assignments will be graded with regard to both form and content.

Recording of lectures: Recording any part of any lectures in any form must first be approved by the instructor in writing and is for individual private study only. See current Calendar, Tape recording of Lectures.

Academic Honesty: Students should be familiar with University regulations regarding academic integrity; see relevant pages in the current University Calendar.

Academic Accommodation: If you are a student with a disability who requires academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not

eligible for formal academic accommodation. Once registered, please discuss any upcoming tests/examinations with the instructor two weeks before the scheduled date.

Safewalk Program :

"You don't have to walk alone...." Call 220-5333 and a member of the Safewalk Team will walk you to your car, the LRT, or any destination on campus. Safewalk is available to all students, staff and faculty any time of the day or night. Look for the Campus Security Help Phones located throughout the University. Please don't hesitate to call!

Withdrawing from courses:

Please note the information regarding withdrawals and fee refunds in the Academic Schedule of the current University Calendar.

Gnosis:

Gnosis is the Religious Studies Student Club. For membership or more information please email: gnosis@ucalgary.ca or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/~gnosis>.