

**DEREE COLLEGE SYLLABUS FOR: PH 3026 EXISTENTIALISM**

(Updated Fall 2022)

**UK LEVEL: 5**  
**UK CREDITS: 15**  
**US CREDITS: 3/0/3**

**PREREQUISITES:**

None

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

Late nineteenth to twentieth-century movement with an emphasis on the concept of existence as presented in its major representatives such as Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Heidegger, Sartre. Comparative study of literary and philosophical sources: Dostoyevsky, Tolstoy, Kafka, Camus and others.

**RATIONALE:**

A course in existentialism is fundamental in the sequence of the history of philosophy, stretching from the late nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century. Its reaction to traditional philosophical concerns with essence and its activist emphasis on existence have been highly influential in contemporary philosophy, as well as in the social sciences. Intended for all students, but especially for literature and psychology majors.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

As a result of taking this course, the student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate understanding of the scope and range of existentialism.
2. Distinguish between existentialism, phenomenology and nihilism.
3. Interpret selected writings of the major literary and philosophical representatives.
4. Examine, compare, and critically evaluate positions on main existentialist concepts, such as the inter subjectivity, absurdity, authenticity, alienation, anxiety or angst, self deception, being and nothingness, the revaluation of values.

**METHOD OF TEACHING AND LEARNING:**

In congruence with the teaching and learning strategy of the college, the following tools are used:

- Classes consist of lectures and class discussions of primary sources as well as of contemporary articles assigned by the lecturer.
- Office hours: Students are encouraged to make full use of the office hours of their lecturer, where they can discuss the course material.
- Use of a Blackboard site, where lecturers can post lecture notes assignment instructions, timely announcements, as well as additional resources.
- Use of library facilities: Students are encouraged to make use of the library facilities for their research paper as well as for preparation for the final exam.

<b>ASSESSMENT:</b>	<p>Summative:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="678 308 1422 588"> <tr> <td data-bbox="678 308 1245 483">First Assessment: Midterm Examination (take-home assessment)</td> <td data-bbox="1245 308 1422 483">40%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="678 483 1245 588">Final Assessment: Research Paper (2,500 words)</td> <td data-bbox="1245 483 1422 588">60%</td> </tr> </table> <p>Formative:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="678 659 1422 800"> <tr> <td data-bbox="678 659 1245 768">Class presentation (individual or group)/ or home assignment</td> <td data-bbox="1245 659 1422 768">0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="678 768 1245 800"></td> <td data-bbox="1245 768 1422 800"></td> </tr> </table> <p>The formative assessment aims to prepare students for both summative assessments. The First Assessment tests Learning Outcomes 2, 3 and 4. The Final Assessment tests Learning Outcomes 1, 2, 3 and 4.</p>	First Assessment: Midterm Examination (take-home assessment)	40%	Final Assessment: Research Paper (2,500 words)	60%	Class presentation (individual or group)/ or home assignment	0%		
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Final Assessment: Research Paper (2,500 words)	60%								
Class presentation (individual or group)/ or home assignment	0%								
<b>INDICATIVE READING:</b>	<p><b>REQUIRED READING:</b></p> <p>Cooper, David. <i>Existentialism: A Reconstruction</i>, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., Blackwell Publishing, 1999.</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDED READING:</b> Hubert L. Dreyfus and Mark A. Wrathall . <a href="#">A Companion to Phenomenology and Existentialism</a>. Cambridge University Press. 2009.</p> <p>Kaufman, Walter. <a href="#">Existentialism From Dostoyevsky To Sartre</a>. Plume Books, 1981.</p> <p>Sherman, G.G. <a href="#">The Fabric of Existentialism</a>. Prentice-Hall, 1973.</p>								
<b>INDICATIVE MATERIAL:</b> (e.g. audiovisual, digital material, etc.)	<p><i>American Scholar</i> <i>Analysis</i> <i>Existential Analysis: Journal of the Society for Existential History of the Human Sciences</i> <i>Philosophy and Literature</i> <i>Sartre Studies International</i></p>								
<b>COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS:</b>	<p>Class discussion in academic/professional English and debating speech skills.</p>								

SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS:	Microsoft Word
WWW RESOURCES:	<a href="http://plato.stanford.edu/">http://plato.stanford.edu/</a> <a href="http://www.utm.edu/research/iep/">http://www.utm.edu/research/iep/</a> <a href="http://www.hippias.com">http://www.hippias.com.</a>
INDICATIVE CONTENT:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Preliminaries</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1. The Sources of the Name</li> <li>1.2 Existentialism and 'The Existentialist'</li> <li>1.3 Some Misconceptions</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. <b>Philosophy and Alienation</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.1. Battling Against Bewitchment</li> <li>2.2. Hegel and Marx</li> <li>2.3. Existentialism and Alienation</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. <b>From Phenomenology to Existentialism</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.1. 'Pure' Phenomenology</li> <li>3.2. The Existentialist Critique</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. <b>'Being-in-the-World'</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4.1. World</li> <li>4.2 Human Existence</li> </ol> </li> <li>5. <b>Dualisms Dissolved</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5.1. Subject versus Object</li> <li>5.2. Mind versus Body</li> <li>5.3. Reason versus Passion</li> <li>5.4. Fact versus Value</li> </ol> </li> <li>6. <b>Self and Others</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6.1. Some False Starts</li> <li>6.2. Being-with and Being-for</li> </ol> </li> <li>7. <b>Modes of Self-estrangement</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7.1 Public, Herd and the They</li> <li>7.2 Bad Faith and 'the Predominance of the Other'</li> <li>7.3 A Problem</li> </ol> </li> <li>8. <b>Angst, Death and Absurdity</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8.1 <i>Angst</i></li> <li>8.2 Death</li> <li>8.3 Absurdity</li> <li>8.4 Religious Intimations</li> </ol> </li> <li>9. <b>Existential Freedom</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9.1 Freedom and Choice</li> <li>9.2 Choice and Refusal</li> <li>9.3 Individuals and Tribes</li> </ol> </li> <li>10. <b>Existentialism and Ethics</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10.1 Existentialism versus Ethics?</li> <li>10.2 Commitment and Availability</li> <li>10.3 Reciprocal Freedom</li> </ol> </li> </ol>