

PHILOSOPHY 211 (A01)
Introduction to Existentialism
Fall 2018
CRN 12519

Instructor: Dr. Allison Barnes

Email: abarnes@uvic.ca

Office: CLE B309

Phone: 853-3767 (during office hours only)

Office hours: Tuesday and Friday 11:30 a.m. to 12:20 p.m.

Time: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 12:30 p.m. to 1:20 p.m.

Place: COR A221

Texts: Robert C. Solomon, *Existentialism*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005. Second Edition. (Available in the UVic bookstore)

Robert C. Solomon and Kathleen M. Higgins, *What Nietzsche Really Said*. New York: Schocken Books, 2000. (Available in the UVic bookstore)

See the **211 CourseSpaces** page for on-line resources, links to additional course readings, your grades, and class announcements.

Course objective:

I hope that you will find this course to be enjoyable and intellectually stimulating!

Existentialism is a movement that has had a profound influence on Western Philosophy and culture. This course provides an introduction to the methodology of Existentialism, and to its major themes. The course includes fascinating selections of readings by the following key figures in Existentialism: Søren Kierkegaard, Friedrich Nietzsche, Martin Heidegger, and Jean-Paul Sartre. There will be discussion on philosophical problems that arise from the attempt to explain human existence, consciousness and freedom. The course material is designed to be accessible to those with little or no background in Philosophy, but will certainly be engaging for those with background in Philosophy.

Lectures and class attendance: Class attendance is mandatory in the Department of Philosophy. Note that lectures will often introduce concepts and figures that are not mentioned in class readings. Examination and test questions are based on lecture content. Lectures will sometimes be mixed with discussion and in-class writing activities. Well maintained notes will provide an invaluable support to your successful completion of the tests, in class exercises, and final exam.

Policy on technology use in class: Please show respect for your fellow class mates and for your Instructor by turning off phones before coming to class. Studies consistently indicate that laptop use in class negatively impacts the learning and performance of nearby students. If you choose to use a laptop, please do not cause distraction.

Registration status: Students are responsible for verifying their registration status. Registration status may be verified using My Page, View Schedule. Course adds and drops will not be processed after the deadlines set out in the current UVic Calendar.

Sept. 18: 100% withdraw refund deadline

Oct. 9: 50% withdraw refund deadline

Oct. 31: Academic drop deadline

Sept. 21: Add deadline

Course requirements:

1. The first test will count **20%** toward the final grade. Format will be 3 questions, written answer. One question will be provided in advance.

Date: September 28th

2. The second test will count **20%** toward the final grade. Format will be 3 questions, written answer. One question will be provided in advance.

Date: October 23rd

3. The third test will count **20%** toward the final grade. Format will be 3 questions, written answer. One question will be provided in advance.

Date: November 20th

4. The final examination will count **40%** toward the final grade. One question will be provided in advance, and a study guide will be posted on CourseSpaces. Format will be written answer. The final exam will be scheduled in the December exam period.

Grading scheme:

A+ 90-100

A 85-89

A- 80-84

B+ 77-79

B 73-76

B- 70-72

C+ 65-69

C 60-64

D 50-59

F 0-49

Final grades are entered as a percent. Grades are rounded to the nearest whole percent (e.g., 84.5 = 85, 84.4 = 84). Tests will be returned in class as soon as they are graded. Final examinations are the property of the UVic, and will not be returned. Students' grades are available through <www.uvic.ca/mypage>.

It is important for all students to read the following policy on **Academic Misconduct** in the UVic 2017-18 Calendar via <http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2017-05/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html> Here are two sections of the policy:

Cheating on Work, Tests and Examinations:

Cheating includes, but is not limited to:

- copying the answers or other work of another person
- having in an examination or test any materials or equipment other than those authorized by the examiners
- accessing unauthorized information or answers when doing take-home assignments, tests, or examinations

- impersonating a student on an examination or test, or being assigned the results of such impersonation
- accessing or attempting to access examinations or tests before it is permitted to do so

Students found communicating with one another in any way or having unauthorized books, papers, notes or electronic devices in their possession during a test or examination will be considered to be in violation of this policy. (Academic Calendar 2018-19)

Plagiarism:

A student commits plagiarism when he or she:

- submits the work of another person as original work
- gives inadequate attribution to an author or creator whose work is incorporated into the student's work, including failing to indicate clearly (through accepted practices within the discipline, such as footnotes, internal references and the crediting of all verbatim passages through indentations of longer passages or the use of quotation marks) the inclusion of another individual's work
- paraphrases material from a source without sufficient acknowledgement as described above

The University reserves the right to use plagiarism detection software programs to detect plagiarism in essays, term papers and other work. (UVic Academic Calendar 2018-19)

Missed tests and exam:

You are responsible for attending scheduled tests and examination. If you miss either of the tests for a justifiable reason (i.e. illness, accident, or family affliction), your course requirement percentage weighting will be adjusted. Otherwise, you will receive a score of zero. If you miss the final exam for an allowable reason (i.e. illness, accident, or family affliction), you must apply to Records Services for a "Request for Academic Concession". This application must be made within ten working days of missing the exam (See Annual Calendar). If this request is approved, you will be assigned a make-up exam. If this request is not approved, you will receive a score of zero. Information regarding religious observance can be located in the UVic Calendar, and in posted Philosophy Department Policies.

Course experience survey (CES):

"I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term you will have the opportunity to complete a confidential course experience survey (CES) regarding your learning experience. The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future. When it is time for you to complete the survey, you will receive an email inviting you to do so. If you do not receive an email invitation, you can go directly to <http://ces.uvic.ca>. You will need to use your UVic NetLink ID to access the survey, which can be done on your laptop, tablet or mobile device.

Territory Acknowledgment: The University of Victoria is committed to acknowledging and respecting the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples on whose traditional territory the University stands and whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive and supportive and safe learning and working environment for all its members.

Reading schedule:

The following is the probable reading schedule for the duration of the course. **S and H** stands for the required jointly authored Solomon and Higgins text. **S** stands for the required Solomon text. **Any changes will be announced in class.**

Class Topic and Reading	Date
Orientation and Introduction pp. xi-xx	Sept. 5
1. Nietzsche	
S&H Chapter 1	Sept. 7, 11
S&H Chapter 3, S pp. 67-74	Sept. 12, 14
S&H Chapter 6, S pp. 79-94	Sept. 18, 19
S&H Chapter 7, S pp. 94-101	Sept. 21, 25, 26
Test#1	Sept. 28
2. Kierkegaard	
S pp. 17-33	Oct. 2, 3
Extra Reading on CourseSpaces	Oct. 5, 9, 10
3. Heidegger	
S pp. 117-146	Oct. 12, 16, 17, 19, 24
Test #2	Oct. 23
4. Sartre	
S pp. 203-244	Oct. 26, 30, 31, Nov. 2, 6, 7, 16
Test #3	Nov. 20
5. de Beauvoir	
S pp. 291-308	Nov. 21, 23, 27

6. Camus

S pp. 183-198

Nov. 28, 30

Review

Dec. 4, 5