EXISTENTIALISM

WINTER 2000

PROFESSOR: Chris Latiolais
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Offices Hours:
1) Mon. 2:00 - 3:45
2) Tue. 10:30 - 11:30
3) By Appointment.

REQUIRED TEXTS:


SECONDARY LITERATURE:

1. Dreyfus, Hubert: Being In The World: A Commentary on Division One of Being and Time.

2. Olafson, Frederick:


FILMS: (Shown on Wednesday Evenings, 8:00 PM, Dewing 103):
1. Babette's Feast.
2. The Hairdresser's Husband.
3. The Conversation.
4. Ikuru (To Live).
6. The Passenger.
7. The Unbearable Lightness of Being.

COURSE GOALS:

To introduce students to existentialism as a critique of traditional Western philosophy (See detailed course description after reading schedule).

EVALUATION:

Students will be evaluated on the basis of class participation, fidelity to an academic journal, two midterm examinations and a final paper.

Class Participation Seminar presentations and discussion 20%
Midterm examinations 2 @ 15% each 30%
E-mail Correspondence & Quizzes 4 @ 5% = 20%
Final Paper 10-15 pages 20%

POLICIES:

Open, respectful and critical discussion is crucial to this course. E-mail correspondence provides students with lecture materials important for our interpretation and criticism of texts, which prepare them for participation in classroom discussion, and quizzes allow students to evaluate their comprehension of basic terms, positions and arguments. Midterm assignments and the final paper offer students the opportunity to respond in depth to a single topic. The final paper is due on the day scheduled for the final examination. 3 unexcused absences will result in a full point reduction of the course grade, and later papers may be accepted with full point reduction for each day after the deadline.

SCHEDULE OF READING

1. HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION: EXISTENTIALISM AS A CRITIQUE OF TRADITIONAL WESTERN PHILOSOPHY.

TUESDAY: COURSE MECHANICS

THURSDAY: THE VOLUNTARIST CRITIQUE OF INTELLECTUALISM & THE EXISTENTIALISM ETHIC OF AUTHENTIC INTERPERSONAL RELATIONS:

2. Handout.

2. **KIERKEGAARD'S ANALYSIS OF DEFINING RELATIONS: LOVE OF ANOTHER AS ANALOGY FOR FAITH**

**TUESDAY: THE DEMANDS OF PSEUDONYMOUS AUTHORSHIP UPON THE READER & JOHANNES DE SILENTIO'S ADMIRATION OF ABRAHAM**

**WEEK TWO**


**WEDNESDAY:**

1. FILM #1: Babette's Feast (Dewing 103, 8:00 PM).

**THURSDAY:** KNIGHTS OF FAITH; KNIGHTS OF RESIGNATION.

1. FEAR AND TREMBLING, Preface, "A Panegyric Upon Abraham" & "Problemata: Preliminary Expectoration" (Guignon pp. 18-48) [Continued].

2. Discussion of Babette's Feast.

**TUESDAY: THE TELEOLOGICAL SUSPENSION OF THE ETHICAL & RELIGIOUS ABSOLUTION.**

**WEEK THREE**

2. "Problem 1" & "Problem 2" (Guignon, pp. 48-70).

**WEDNESDAY:** THE TELEOLOGICAL SUSPENSION OF THE ETHICAL & RELIGIOUS ABSOLUTION.

1. FILM #2: The Hairdresser's Husband (Dewing 103, 8:00 PM).

**THURSDAY:** ANTI-CLIMACUS'S DEFINITION OF THE SELF AND JOHANNES CLIMACUS'S CONCEPT OF SUBJECTIVE TRUTH.

1. Sickness Unto Death (Guignon, pp. 70-77).

2. Concluding Unscientific Postscript (Guignon, pp. 77-85).

3. Discussion of The Hairdresser's Husband.

4. Midterm Assignment #1.

3. **NIETZSCHE'S EARLY DUALISM AND LATER CONCEPT OF THE WILL TO POWER:**
TUESDAY: THE APOLLONIAN AND DIONYSIAN WEEK FOUR


3. The Birth of Tragedy (Guignon, pp. 111-115).

WEDNESDAY:

1. FILM #3: The Bacchae (Dewing 103, 8:00 PM).

4. SIMONE DE BEAUVOIR CRITIQUE OF ESSENTIALISM AND ITS AFTERMATH:

THURSDAY: THE OVERMAN

1. The Gay Science (Guignon, pp. 115-164).

2. Twilight of the Idols (Guignon, pp. 164-175).


TUESDAY: CONSCIENCE AS INTERNALIZED REGULATIVE NORMS: NIETZSCHE AND MODERN GENDER STUDIES: WEEK FIVE

1. "Circuits of Bad Conscience" [hand out].

2. "Women's Situation and Character" (Continued).


WEDNESDAY:

1. FILM #5: The Conversation (Dewing 103, 8:00 PM).

5. HEIDEGGER'S CONCEPT OF BEING IN THE WORLD: CARE, CONSCIENCE AND AUTHENTICITY

THURSDAY: HUSSERL'S PHENOMENOLOGY: PHILOSOPHY AS CONTEMPLATIVE REFLECTION

1. "Women's Situation and Character" (Continued).


TUESDAY: THE EXPERIENCE OF DISRUPTION REVEALS OUR SITUATION & HEIDEGGER'S CRITIQUE OF TRANSCENDENTAL REFLECTION WEEK SIX

1. Heidegger Introduction (Guignon, pp. 175-203).
2. Being and Time (Guignon, pp. 203-247).

**WEDNESDAY:**
1. FILM #6: The Unbearable Lightness of Being (Dewing 103, 8:00 PM).

**THURSDAY: HEIDEGGER'S CRITIQUE OF MODERN PHILOSOPHY.**
1. Being and Time (Continued).
2. Discussion of The Conversation.

**TUESDAY: HEIDEGGER'S CONCEPTS OF AUTHENTICITY: THE "CONCRETE SITUATION"**
**WEEK SEVEN**
1. Being and Time (End).
2. Midterm Assignment #2.

**WEDNESDAY:**
1. FILM #7: Ikuru (Dewing 103, 8:00 PM).

6. BAKHTIN'S EARLY WORKS: THE EXISTENCE OF THE ACT

**THURSDAY: ONCE-OCCURRENT BEING AND THE TIME OF OUR LIVES.**
1. Discussion of Ikuru.
2. The Philosophy of the Act.

**TUESDAY: ONCE-OCCURRENT BEING AND THE TIME OF OUR LIVES.**
**WEEK EIGHT**
1. The Philosophy of the Act.

**THURSDAY: MORAL UNIVERSALITY AND AESTHETIC INDIVIDUALISM**
1. The Philosophy of the Act.

7. SARTRE'S REINTERPRETATION OF AUTHENTICITY: RADICAL CHOICE AND BAD FAITH

**TUESDAY: FACTICITY AND FREEDOM: SARTRE'S INTERPRETATION OF Being and Time.**
**WEEK NINE**
2. The Humanism of Existentialism (Guignon, pp. 268-287).
3. Being and Nothingness.

**WEDNESDAY:**

1. FILM #8: The Passenger (Dewing 103, 8:00 PM).

**THURSDAY:** SARTRE'S CONCEPT OF EXISTENTIALISM.

1. Discussion of The Passenger.

**TUESDAY:** BAD FAITH, FREEDOM AND RESPONSIBILITY. WEEK TEN

1. Review.

**THURSDAY:** REVIEW & COURSE EVALUATIONS

**FINALS WEEK:**