

PHILOSOPHY 342: EXISTENTIALISM

Spring, 2006 / Professor McIntyre / Schedule of Topics and Assignments (Revised 3/15/06)

Some Main Themes of Existentialism

- 1/30 Essentialism vs. Existentialism
Schopenhauer, "Every Existence Presupposes an Essence" ([website](#))
Ortega, "Man Has No Nature," in Kaufmann, pp. 152-57
- 2/6 Sartre: "Existence Precedes Essence"
Sartre, "Existentialism is a Humanism," in Kaufmann, pp. 345-69
- 2/13 Existentialism in Literature: Some Examples
Sartre, "The Wall," in Kaufmann, pp. 281-99
Dostoevsky, *Notes from Underground*, in Kaufmann, pp. 52-72
- 2/20 Existentialism in Literature (continued)
Dostoevsky, *Notes from Underground*, in Kaufmann, pp. 72-82
Camus, "The Myth of Sisyphus," in Kaufmann, pp. 375-78
Introduction to Kierkegaard
Kierkegaard, "On His Mission" and "That Individual," in Kaufmann, pp. 85-87, 94-99

Existentialism as Individual Commitment: Kierkegaard

- 2/27 Abraham and Isaac: A "Teleological Suspension of the Ethical"?
Genesis 17:1-5, 15-21; 22:1-19 ([website](#))
Fear and Trembling, pp. 64-70, 72 ([website](#))
- 3/6 The Paradox of Faith
Fear and Trembling, pp. 78-82, 86-90 ([website](#))
- PAPER #1 – DUE NOON WEDNESDAY, 3/8**
- 3/13 Subjective vs. Objective Truth
"Truth is Subjectivity," in Kaufmann, pp. 110-20
"On Authority," in Kaufmann, pp. 105-10

Existentialism as Systematic Philosophy: Sartre

- 3/20 Phenomenological Background
From McIntyre and Smith, "Theory of Intentionality" ([website](#))
From Føllesdal, "An Introduction to Phenomenology for Analytic Philosophers" ([website](#))
"Being-For-Itself" and "Being-in-Itself"
Being and Nothingness, pp. 11-14, 17, 24-25, 28-30
From *Nausea* ([website](#))
- 3/27 "Nothingness" as a Component of Reality
Being and Nothingness, pp. 34-36, 38-44
Nothingness and Freedom
Being and Nothingness, pp. 56-61, 63-65

MID-TERM EXAM – DUE NOON WEDNESDAY, 3/29

- 4/3 Anguish as the Experience of Freedom
Being and Nothingness, pp. 65-73
Flight from Anguish
Being and Nothingness, pp. 73-82
- 4/10 Spring Break
- 4/17 Bad Faith (Self-Deception)
Being and Nothingness, pp. 82-90, 96-112, 116
- 4/24 Freedom and Responsibility
Being and Nothingness, 559-64, 575-79, 584-85, 619-23, 626-29, 637, 639-40, 707-11
- 5/1 "Being-For-Others"
Being and Nothingness, pp. 301-303, 340-62
- 5/8 Love and Conflict
Being and Nothingness, pp. 471-85, 488-96
- PAPER #2 – DUE NOON WEDNESDAY, 5/10**
- 5/15 Summary and Review
No Exit ([website](#))
- 5/22 **FINAL EXAM – 5:30-7:30 PM ***

* The final exam is scheduled as in-class. If class dynamics and performance warrant, it may be rescheduled as a take-home.