



A: Division: **INSTRUCTIONAL** Date: **JANUARY 1998**
 B: Faculty: **HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES** New Course:
 Department: **PHILOSOPHY & HUMANITIES** Revision of Course **DECEMBER 1981**
 Program: Information form:

C: **PHIL 250** D: **EXISTENTIALISM: SEARCH FOR SELFHOOD** E: **3**
 Subject & Course No. Descriptive Title Semester Credit

F: **Calendar Description:** Existentialism is a philosophy which focuses upon human existence and the ways in which humanity is unique. Our human situation is unique because, despite our similarities with other kinds of entities, both natural and artificial, we alone bear some responsibility for the fate of all things, including ourselves. Existentialism is concerned especially with the human predicament: our freedom and responsibility, the possibility of selfhood and the inevitability of death, the nature of time and the process of existing. Existential philosophers emphasize the place of emotions and imagination, myth and poetic truth in human experience, along with the traditional roles of reason and understanding. In addition to these themes, this course may consider topics such as: the death of God, nihilism, inwardness, authenticity, self-deception, ideology and technology. Representative thinkers may include: Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Heidegger, Jaspers, Buber, Sartre, Merleau-Ponty, de Beauvoir, and Camus. Offered: Winter

Summary of Revisions: Enter sections)
 Eg: Section C,E,F
SECTION H

G: **Type of instruction: Days per Week/ per Semester**

Lecture:	2	Hrs.
Laboratory:		Hrs.
Seminar:	2	Hrs.
Clinical Experience:		Hrs.
Field Experience:		Hrs.
Practicum:		Hrs.
Shop:		Hrs.
Studio:		Hrs.
Student Directed Learning:		Hrs.
Other (Specify):		Hrs.
Total:	4	Hrs.

H: **Course Prerequisites:**
SECOND SEMESTER STANDING (OR CONSENT OF INSTRUCTOR)

I: **Course Corequisites:**
NONE

J: **Course for which this Course is a Prerequisite:**
NONE

K: **Maximum Class Size:**
35

L: **College Credit Transfer** **X**
College Credit Non-Transfer
Non-Credit

M: **Transfer Credit:** Requested:
 Granted: **X**

Specify Course Equivalents or Unassigned Credit as appropriate: (as per current B.C. Transfer Guide)

SFU **SFU PHIL 280 (3)**
 UBC **Any two DOUG PHIL 102, 103, 151,152, 170, 250 - UBC PHIL 100 (6)**
 UNBC **UNBC HUMN 200 lev (3)**
 UVIC **UVIC PHIL 211 (1.5)**

Ben E. Davis
 Course Designer(s)
Ben E. Davis for Robert Nicholls
 Department Chair

P. H. O'Keefe
 Registrar

NAME AND NUMBER OF COURSE

COURSES FOR WHICH THIS
IS A PREREQUISITE:

Philosophy 350

RELATED COURSES:

TEXTBOOKS, REFERENCES, MATERIALS (LIST READING RESOURCES ELSEWHERE)

Michael Novak, The Experience of Nothingness, Harper, 1971Walter Kaufmann, Existentialism from Dostoyevsky to Sartre, Meridian, 1956William V. Spanos, Existentialism 2, A Casebook, T.Y. Crowell Co., 1966

COURSE OBJECTIVES, CONTENT, METHOD, EVALUATION:

OBJECTIVES:

By the end of the semester, the student should be able to:

- (1) Identify the major themes of the existentialist movement.
- (2) Be familiar with the phenomenological method, as it is employed by existential thinkers, and be able to discuss and explain it.
- (3) Relate the traditional problems of moral and political theory, and of religion, to contemporary social issues by means of the "methodology" of existentialism.
- (4) Relate the major themes of existentialism to other major philosophies.

CONTENT:

This course is designed to deal with:

- (1) A systematic survey of the philosophical, historical and cultural backgrounds of the existentialist movement. In particular, it will study Kierkegaard and Nietzsche, considered as pioneers of the movement.
- (2) The phenomenological method which the representatives of existentialism claim to employ. This study will entail an examination of the idea of phenomenology as originally conceived by Husserl and of its later modification by existential thinkers such as Heidegger and Sartre.
- (3) A systematic survey of the common main themes of the movement: "the experience of nothingness", "existence", "being", "the absurd", "death", "the problem of time", "freedom", "authenticity", "the other".
- (4) The central ideas of major modern existential thinkers such as Sartre, Kierkegaard, Jaspers and Heidegger.
- (5) An examination of some major commentaries on existentialism, for example, those of Walter Kaufmann and Colin Wilson.
- (6) An examination of some contemporary attempts to rehabilitate and reinterpret existentialism in the light of criticisms raised in (5).

Philosophy 250METHOD:

The course invites (but does not insist upon) student-participation through seminars. An informal, open lecture method, with ample opportunity for discussion will be provided. There are two major assignments, either two essays or one essay and one seminar. A core of basic books on existentialism will be placed on reserve in the library and a supplementary reading list for any desired additional study.

EVALUATION:

Essay One	20%
Essay Two or Seminar	20%
Other Evaluation (Consisting of options determined by the instructor)	20%
General Instructor Evaluation *	
(a) Participation	
(b) Improvement	
(c) Quizzes, etc. as specified by instructor	40%

* Factors to be explained the first day of class