

EFFECTIVE: SEPTEMBER 2004 CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

A:	Division:	INSTRUCTIONAL	Effective Date:	SEPTEMBER 2004	
В:	Department / Program Area:	PHILOSOPHY & HUMANITIES FACULTY OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES	Revision X	New Course	
		SO CILIE SCIENCES	If Revision, Section(s)	C	
			Revised: Date of Previous Revision:	MARCH 2002	
			Date of Current Revision:	APRIL 2004	
C:	PHIL 12		LISM: SEARCH FOR ELFHOOD	E: 3	
	Subject & Co		scriptive Title	Semester Credits	
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: Kierkegarrd, Nietzsche, Heidegger, Jaspers, Buber, Sartre, Merleau-Ponty, de Beauvoir, and Camus.				
C :	Offered: Winter		H. C. D.		
G:	Allocation of Contact Hours to Type of Instruction / Learning Settings Primary Methods of Instructional Delivery and/or Learning Settings: Lecture and Seminar Number of Contact Hours: (per week / semester for each descriptor) Lecture: 2 hrs. per week / semester		H: Course Prerequisites: SECOND SEMESTER STANDING or CONSENT OF INSTRUCTOR		
			I: Course Corequisites:		
			NONE		
			J: Course for which this Co	ourse is a Prerequisite	
			NONE		
	Seminar:	2 hrs. per week / semester	K: Maximum Class Size:		
	Number of Weeks per Semester: 15		35		
L:	PLEASE INDICATE:				
	Non-Credit				
	College	Credit Non-Transfer			
	X College Credit Transfer:				
	SEE BC TRANSFER GUIDE FOR TRANSFER DETAILS (<u>www.bccat.bc.ca</u>)				

M: Course Objectives / Learning Outcomes:

At the conclusion of the course the successful student will 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.

N: Course 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 Nietzche, considered as pioneers of the movement.
- 2) The phenomenological method which the representatives of existentialism claim to employ. This study will entail and examination of the idea of phenomenology as originally conceived by Husserl and of its later modification by existential thinkers such as Heideffer 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).

O: Methods of Instruction:

The course will employ a variety of instructional methods to accomplish its objectives, including some of the following:

The course invites (but does not insists 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.

P: Textbooks and Materials to be Purchased by Students:

Texts will be updated periodically. Typical examples are:

Michael Novak. The Experience of Nothingness. Harper, 1971.

Walter Kaufmann. Existentialism from Dostoyevsky to Sartre. Meridian, 1956.

William v. Spanos. Existentialism 2, A Casebook. T.Y. Crowell Co., 1966.

Q:	Means of Assessment:			
	Evaluation will be based on course objectives and will be carried out in accordance with Douglas College policy. The instructor will provide a written course outline with specific criteria during the first week of class			
	An example of a possible evaluation scheme would be:			
	Essay One	20%		
	Essay Two or Seminar	20%		
	Other Evaluation	20%		
	(Consisting of options			
	determined by the instructor)			
	General Instructor Evaluation *			
	a) Participation			
	b) Improvement			
	c) Quizzes, etc. as specified by instructor	<u>40%</u>		
		100%		
R:	Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition: specify whether course is open for PLAR			
	No.			
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Cours	se Designer(s): Brian Davies	Education Council / Curriculum Committee Representative		
		_		
Dean	/ Director	Registrar		

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