

Existentialism
Philosophy 159
Summer 2022

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Class Meetings: Monday–Thursday, 10:50 am–12:45 pm, July 11–August 12
Location: ICC 105

Course Description

This course will focus on the philosophies of Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Heidegger, and Sartre, with associated materials to situate these thinkers historically and to consider their ideas in light of philosophical developments since Sartre's death in 1980.

There are a few ways to draw boundaries around "existentialism" as a tradition of thought or as a social or political movement. One central theme we will focus on is existentialism as a response to Enlightenment philosophy, specifically the subject-object distinction. Trying to make sense of this distinction, and whether existentialism discards or reframes it, will be a through-line for the course.

Our main source will be *Existentialism: Basic Writings*, edited by Charles Guignon and Derk Pereboom (2d ed.). You should buy this book for the course. Other materials will be provided on Canvas.

Course Requirements

2 papers, 4–5 pages in length, as well as weekly discussion board posts of about 200 words. Exact due dates of the papers are TBD.

Grading

First paper 30%
Second paper 40%
Discussion posts + participation 30%

Class Policies

TBD. Expect standard rules regarding promptness, courtesy, and plagiarism.