

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline 2015-16**

Philosophy 2555F: Phenomenology and Existentialism

Fall Term 2015
T: 3:30-5:30, Th: 3:30- 4:30
Classroom: TC-203

Instructor: Dean Proessel
Th: 2:30-3:30
dproesse@uwo.ca

DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on some of the major philosophers of the existentialist movement, including most notably Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Heidegger and Sartre. We will examine different ways these philosophers challenge traditional dualisms between mind and matter, subject and object, and how, in doing so, they provide us new and insightful ways of thinking about the conditions of human existence and what it means to transcend and create meaning out of these conditions. Accordingly, our investigation will include questions such as: What is our relation to the world and how does the world take on meaning in our everyday lives? What is freedom? To what extent is our freedom shaped by the world and others? Who is the other and what role do others play in our lives? What is religious faith? And how does living in a secular society transform what it means to be ethically responsible? What might it mean to live authentically?

TEXTS

Existentialism: Basic Writings, Second Edition, Edited by Guignon and Pereboom, Hackett Publishing Company

OBJECTIVES

- Understand the challenge existentialist philosophers pose to the *scientism* of the modern worldview.
- Develop an understanding of what is meant by a phenomenological investigation.
- Understand the significance of one's embodied lived experience and how perception is shaped by language, culture and forms of life.
- Develop skills of phenomenological analysis by preparing two written assignments.

REQUIREMENTS

In addition to attending class lectures, keeping up with class readings and participating in class discussions, students will be expected to fulfill the following course requirements:

Essay	35%
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Final Exam	30%

Submission Guidelines

All written work must be submitted to turnitin.com.
Late papers will be penalized at 10% a day.
No papers will be accepted after the last day of classes.

AUDIT

Students wishing to audit the course should consult with the instructor prior to or during the first week of classes.

The **Department of Philosophy Policies** which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website at <http://www.uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/policies.html>. It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Philosophy, and thus ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.