

Philosophy/English 480: Philosophy and Literature
Professor Barbara Hannan Cooke
University of New Mexico
Spring Semester 2012

Class meets: Fridays 12:00 noon to 2:30, Anderson School of Management, room TBA
Office: Humanities 561. Office hours: Monday/Wednesday/Friday 11:00 to 11:50.
e-mail address: bhannan@unm.edu

Texts

Robert C. Solomon, *Existentialism*, second edition (Oxford, 2005)
Albert Camus, *The Stranger, The Plague, The Fall, The Myth of Sisyphus and Other Essays*

Course Description

In this course we will explore the theme “Existentialism and the Novel.” We will focus on the novels of Albert Camus, but we will also read selections from existentialist literature and philosophy by other authors, collected in Solomon’s anthology. We will view some taped lectures by Solomon, and discuss his interpretations of written works assigned. The goal is to come to an understanding of existentialism as a philosophical and literary movement.

Students will be graded on class participation and on a single written assignment, due at the end of the semester. This may be either an academic paper on some literary work with existentialist themes, or a creative work such as a short story with existentialist themes, or themes you believe to represent the development of existentialism in our own times, reactions to existentialism in our own times, etc.

SYLLABUS

Friday Jan. 20: What is existentialism? Camus, “The Stranger,” Part I.

Friday Jan. 27: Camus, “The Stranger,” Part II; Camus, “The Myth of Sisyphus.”

Friday Feb. 3: Camus, “The Plague” and “The Fall.”

Friday Feb. 10: Kierkegaard, “On Becoming a Christian” and “Subjective Truth.”

Friday Feb. 17: Kierkegaard’s existential dialectic.

Friday Feb. 24: Nietzsche on Nihilism and the Death of God; “The Immoralist.”

Friday March 2: Nietzsche on freedom, fate, and responsibility.

Friday March 9: Nietzsche on the “Overman” and the Will to Power. PAPER OUTLINES OR CREATIVE PROJECT PLANS DUE.

Friday March 16: No class; Spring Break.

Friday March 23: Three Grand Inquisitors: Dostoyevsky, Kafka, Hesse.

Friday March 30: Husserl, Heidegger, and Phenomenology; Heidegger on the World and the Self.

Friday April 6: Heidegger on “Authenticity”; Sartre at War.

Friday April 13: Sartre on Emotions and Responsibility; Sartre’s phenomenology.

Friday April 20: Sartre on “Bad Faith.”

Friday April 27: Sartre’s Being-for-Others and “No Exit.”

Friday May 4: Sartre on Sex and Love; from Existentialism to Postmodernism. Term papers or creative works due.