

PHP 3786 – EXISTENTIALISM
Dr. Howe

Course Description:

A historical and thematic study of the 19th – 20th century philosophical movement known as Existentialism. Themes such as freedom, anxiety, death, the absurd, the values of the individual against the crowd or mass society will be discussed in the context of the thought of Kierkegaard, Sartre, Heidegger, Marcel and others.

Course Objectives:

1. Development of theories identified in the Existentialist school of thought.
2. Explanation of themes associated with Existentialism.
3. Contrast and comparison of philosophical positions.
4. Articulation of ideas in philosophical essays.
5. Analysis of arguments in existential thought.

Texts:

Robert Solomon: *Existentialism*

Class Work:

Readings of the text will be assigned to supplement class lectures and discussions. Students should be prepared to discuss reading material in class.

Tests:

There will be two tests: one mid-term essay that will cover all material from the first meeting to the middle of the course and one final essay that will cover all the material from the mid-term to the last lecture meeting.

Grading:

The final course grade will be based on the cumulative grades of the two essay examinations, each counting for 50% of your grade. Attendance is mandatory. Two un-excused absences could seriously affect your final grade.