

**Syllabus**  
**PHIL 385 003: *Existentialism* (Winter 2017, Term 1)**

**Lectures**

Tues, Thurs, 12:30-14:00 at LSK201

**Instructor**

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Office hours: TBA

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TBA

**Course description**

The course will study the thought of three great existentialist philosophers: Søren Kierkegaard, Friedrich Nietzsche, and Jean-Paul Sartre. We identify, discuss, and assess core ideas in these thinkers about what the human existential condition amounts to.

**Required texts**

Kierkegaard, Søren: *Either/Or: A Fragment of Life*, trans. A. Hannay. London: Penguin, 1992.

Kierkegaard, S. *Fear and Trembling*, trans. A. Hannay. London: Penguin, 2003.

Nietzsche, Friedrich: *Beyond Good and Evil*, trans. H. Zimmern. Mineola: Dover, 1997.

Sartre, Jean-Paul: *Existentialism is a Humanism*, trans. Annie Cohen-Solal. Yale University Press, 2007.

(Note: Public domain editions of these books are available and can be used, but ask the instructor about the particular edition you intend to use if you opt for this alternative.)

**Course requirements**

There will be three in-class exams (each worth 20% of the final grade), and a final exam (worth 40% of the final grade).

The in-class exam will be on Oct 12, Nov 9, and Nov 30. You will be asked to provide answers to a few questions dealing with matters brought up in class. A missed in-class exam will be assigned a grade point of 0 unless a satisfactory reason can be provided for the absence (in which case there will be opportunity for a make-up exam).

The final exam will be held in December during UBC's final examinations period. A missed final exam will be assigned a grade point of 0 unless an explanation is provided that is acceptable by the standards of the UBC Academic Calendar (in which case there will be opportunity for a make-up exam).

**Marking scale**

90-100%: A+	76-79%: B+	64-67%: C+	50-54%: D
85-89%: A	72-75%: B	60-63%: C	0-49%: F
80-84%: A-	68-71%: B-	55-59%: C-	

## Plagiarism

Plagiarism, which is intellectual theft, occurs where an individual submits or presents the oral or written work of another person as his or her own. Scholarship quite properly rests upon examining and referring to the thoughts and writings of others. However, when another person's words (i.e. phrases, sentences, or paragraphs), ideas, or entire works are used, the author must be acknowledged in the text, in footnotes, in endnotes, or in another accepted form of academic citation. Where direct quotations are made, they must be clearly delineated (for example, within quotation marks or separately indented). Failure to provide proper attribution is plagiarism because it represents someone else's work as one's own. Plagiarism should not occur in submitted drafts or final works. A student who seeks assistance from a tutor or other scholastic aids must ensure that the work submitted is the student's own. Students are responsible for ensuring that any work submitted does not constitute plagiarism. Students who are in any doubt as to what constitutes plagiarism should consult their instructor before handing in any assignments. See also <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/Vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,959>

## Tentative schedule with readings

### SEPT 5 – OCT 12: KIERKEGAARD

*Either/Or*

*Fear and Trembling*

(Excerpts from other writings, posted online)

*\*Oct 12: In-class exam on Kierkegaard*

### OCT 17 – NOV 9: NIETZSCHE

*Beyond Good and Evil*

(Excerpts from other writings, posted online)

*\*Nov 9: In-class exam on Nietzsche*

### NOV 14 – 30: SARTRE

*Existentialism is a humanism*

(Excerpts from other writings, posted online)

*\*Nov 30: In-class exam on Sartre*

*\*December: Final exam (exact date and location TBA)*