

San José State University
College of the Humanities and the Arts/ Philosophy
Dept.
Phil 113: Existentialism and Phenomenology
Spring, 2018

Instructor: Peter Hadreas

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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00 to 2:30 and by appointment

Class Days/Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:00 to 4:15.

Classroom: Sweeney Hall 241

Prerequisites: 3 units of philosophy or upper division standing.

Course Description

This semester we'll offer a fairly comprehensive synopsis of main existentialist and phenomenological philosophers. Time spent on individual philosophers will have to be fairly short. Even so we'll distribute the time so that the most influential and formative thinkers receive the greater amount of discussion. We'll cover main doctrines of Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Brentano, Husserl, Heidegger, Sartre, Merleau-Ponty, de Beauvoir, Camus, Arendt, Levinas and Derrida. Because of their especially lasting philosophical influence, more time will be spent on Husserl and Heidegger than on several of the others.

Required Books:

Moran, Dermot and Mooney, Timothy, (Eds.), *The Phenomenology Reader*, London and New York: Routledge, 2002 ISBN: 978-0-415-22421-5. Abbreviated as **PR** below

Marino, Gordon, *Basic Writings of Existentialism*, New York: The Modern Library, 2004. ISBN: 0-375-75989-1. Abbreviated as **BWofE** below

The following additional readings will be made available to students on-line.

The URL for this course is <https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1258002/>

Additional readings can be accessed through the canvas website by clicking the 'Module' tab.

Additional Readings

1. Selections from Heidegger, Martin, *Being and Time*
2. Heidegger, Martin, "The Origin of the Work of Art"
3. selections from Hadreas, Peter, *A Phenomenology of Love and Hate*.

Attendance and Discussions

It's highly recommended that students attend class regularly since the language of many of the philosophers, especially Husserl and Heidegger, likely will be unintelligible without in-class instruction. Students are not expected to absorb the texts fully before discussions. What is sought is a thoughtful reading of the assigned texts. Indication of such an effort, as shown through class discussion, will enable students to obtain full credit for class participation.

Assignments and Grading

On Tuesday 2/13, 3/6, 4/3 and 4/24, there will be a very short fill-in or multiple choice quiz on the readings and discussions of the previous two weeks. These quizzes will be figured into you grade at 4% each.

There will be three relatively short papers (2-3 pages) due in the first half of the semester. See schedule for specific dates.

There will also be a longer 'shared' assignment and a final term paper. The shared paper/debate is an unusual assignment for philosophy courses to further class participation. Students will be asked *either* to write a 3-4 page

paper with one other student **or** to present a two-person debate in front of the class. Topics for the shared papers and debates will be suggested by the instructor. If you choose to do the debate you need to discuss your plans with Prof. Hadreas.

The final term paper will be 7-8 pages long and due at the time of the final exam. This is the main scholarly work of the semester. Topics will be suggested, but you are free to write on any of the philosophers discussed during the semester although you need to OK the topic with Prof. Hadreas.

Weighing of Assignments

Quizzes: Four short quizzes 4% each for a total of 16% of grade.

Papers: Three short papers (2-3 pages) 10% each totaling 30% of grade.

One shared paper or debate totaling 18% of grade.

One final term paper for 36% of grade.

University Policies

Academic integrity

Students are expected to be familiar with the University's Academic Integrity Policy. Please review this at http://sa.sjsu.edu/student_conduct. "Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University and the University's integrity policy, require you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical development."

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. "If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors."

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Students with disabilities need to register with San Jose State University Accessible Education Center (AEC), formerly known as the Disability Resource Center (DRC). The Center is located in ADMIN 110, Telephone 408-924-6000; email aec-info@sjsu.edu

Special accommodations for exams generally require ample notice -- at least a week -- to the testing office and should be submitted to the instructor well in advance before the exam date.

U. S. Department of Education Policy

U. S. Department of Education document GEN-11-06 published on October 29, 2010 requires that the following language describing time spent outside of class be included in the syllabus:

“Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each hour of class time, a minimum of two hours on preparation, studying or other course related activity. Internships, labs and online courses will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor’s permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.

Existentialism and Phenomenology/Phil 113

Course Schedule

(Note: subject to change with fair notice.)

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	1/25	Introduction to Phil 113
2	1/30-2/1	Kierkegaardian Christian Existentialism Read, BWofE : pp. 41-105. 2/1 First 2-3 page paper topics handed out.
3	2/6-8	Nietzschean Existentialism -- I Read, BWofE : pp. 107-144.
4	2/13-15	Nietzschean Existentialism -- II Read, BWofE : pp. 145-187. 2/13 End of class, very short quiz on readings and discussions of previous two weeks. 2/15 First 2-3 page paper due. 2/15 Second 2-3 page paper topics handed out
5	2/20-22	Backgrounds of Phenomenology – Brentano Read from PR , pp. 29-56 Read Hadreas, “Introduction” to <i>A Phenomenology of Love and Hate</i> available through the canvas course website.
6	2/27-3/1	Husserlian Phenomenology – I Read: PR pp. 59-108 and PR pp. 109-123 recommended.
7	3/6-8	Husserlian Phenomenology – II Read: PR pp. 124-174 3/6 End of class, very short quiz on readings and discussions of previous two weeks. 3/8 Second 2-3 page paper due 3/8 Third 2-3 page paper topics handed out
8	3/13-15	Heideggerian Hermeneutical Phenomenology – I Read: PR pp. 245-287
9	3/20-22	Heideggerian Hermeneutical Phenomenology – II Read: PR pp. 288-307 And excerpts from Heidegger, Martin, <i>Being and Time</i> , Sections 27 and 38, available through the canvas course website.
		March 26th to 30th: Spring Recess
10	4/3-5	Heideggerian Hermeneutical Phenomenology – III Read: Heidegger: “Origin of the Work of Art” available through

		<p>the canvas course website.</p> <p>4/3 End of class, very short quiz on readings and discussions of previous two weeks of class.</p> <p>4/5 Third 2-3 page paper due</p> <p>4/5 Topics for 3-4 page shared paper (written with one other person in class) as well as topics for two person debate handed out. You need to do <i>either</i> the shared paper or the debate. Not both. If you plan to do the two-person (live) debate, schedule class time with Prof. Hadreas</p>
11	4/10-12	<p>Sartrean Existentialism and De Beauvoir's Phenomenology and Feminism</p> <p>Read: BWofE: 337-367 and PR pp. 382-420; PR pp. 382-420 is recommended.</p>
12	4/17-19	<p>Merleau-Ponty's Existential Phenomenology</p> <p>Read PR pp. 423-459</p> <p>4/17 Topics handed out for final term paper. The final paper should be 7-8 pages.</p>
13	4/24-26	<p>Camusean Existentialism</p> <p>Read: BWofE: pp. 442-494.</p> <p>4/24 End of class, very short quiz on readings and discussions of previous two weeks.</p> <p>4/26 3-4 page shared paper due (written with one other person in class)</p>
14	5/1-3	<p>Arendt's Phenomenology of the Public World and Levinas' Primacy of the Other.</p> <p>Read PR pp. 339-374 and PR pp. 509-539</p>
15	5/8-10	<p>Derrida: Phenomenology and Deconstruction</p> <p>Read PR pp. 543-572</p>
		<p>Final Exam: Final Paper Due Tuesday, May 22nd</p> <p><u>There will be no final exam but the final 7-8 page paper will be due on the day of the final exam. Do not bring your paper to the classroom. Leave it with Prof. Hadreas at his departmental office or in his mailbox in the Philosophy Department anytime on Tuesday, May 22nd.</u></p>