

PHIL3009
TOPICS IN EUROPEAN PHILOSOPHY
Fall 2016
PROFESSOR GERALDINE FINN
PA3A61 EXT 1783

DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to phenomenology and existential philosophy through close readings of selected writings from some of its most influential thinkers. The course will be run as a seminar with individual students assuming responsibility for the introduction of the assigned readings each week. Assessment will be based on seminar presentation and participation and final take-home exam.

REQUIRED TEXTS ordered and available from **AllBooks** 327 Rideau St. next to the Bytowne Cinema (# 7 bus takes you right there). Open 10.00 am – 9.00 pm Mon-Sat, Noon – 9.00 pm Sun. Tel 613 789 9544):

1. *At the Existentialist Café. Freedom, Being and Apricot Cocktails* by Sarah Bakewell. Chatto and Windus, 2016.
2. *Sketch for a Theory of the Emotions* by Jean-Paul Sartre (orig. 1939).
3. *The Ethics of Ambiguity* by Simone de Beauvoir (orig. 1944).

OTHER REQUIRED READINGS are available on **RSV** at the library and include the following:

1. 'Intentionality: A Fundamental Idea of Husserl's Phenomenology' by Jean-Paul Sartre (1939) from *The Phenomenology Reader*, edited by Dermont Moran and Timothy Mooney (London, Routledge, 2002). Also available on line in Thomas Sheehan's notes for his Sartre course at Stanford University.
2. 'The Question Concerning Technology' by Martin Heidegger (1949/53) from *Martin Heidegger. Basic Writings* edited by David Farrell Krell (Harper and Row, orig.1977).
3. 'Throwing Like a Girl. A Phenomenology of Feminine Body Comportment, Motility, and Spatiality' by Iris Marion Young (1977) from *The Thinking Muse. Feminism in Modern French Philosophy* edited by Jeffner Allen and Iris Marion Young (Indiana University Press, 1989).
4. 'Preface' to *The Phenomenology of Perception* by Maurice Merleau-Ponty (1945).
5. 'The Body as Expression and Speech' also from *The Phenomenology of Perception* (op.cit).
6. 'A Plea for Intellectuals' by Jean-Paul Sartre (1965) from *Between Existentialism and Marxism* by Jean-Paul Sartre (New Left Books, 19774).

ATTENDANCE

Attendance will be recorded and one percentage point deducted from your final grade for each absence (up to a maximum of 10%).

EVALUATION (provisional)

Seminar	40%
Final Exam	60%

SEMINARS

All students will be responsible for at least one seminar presentation. Seminar instructions are attached to this outline. The grade for the seminar will be based on the quality of your individual presentation(s) as well as your overall seminar participation throughout the course. Participation includes attentive listening as well as oral contributions informed by careful consideration of the assigned readings and/or other materials relevant to the topic of the course.

OFFICE HOURS: by appointment only

TAKE-HOME EXAM

This will be distributed in the last class. **Due** on or before Thursday 22 December 2016.

COURSE OUTLINE

- week 1 Introduction and assignment of seminar responsibilities.
- week 2 ***At the Existentialist Café***
 'Sir, What a Horror, Existentialism!' (chapter 1)
 'To The Things Themselves' (chapter 2)
- week 3 ***Sketch for a Theory of Emotions*** by Jean-Paul Sartre
- week 4 ***At the Existentialist Café***
 'The Magician from Messkirch' (chapter 3)
 'The They, the Call' (chapter 4)
- week 5 **NO CLASS—THANKSGIVING**
- week 6 ***At the Existentialist Café***
 'To Crunch Flowering Almonds' (chapter 5)
 'I Don't Want to Eat my Manuscripts' (chapter 6)
 'Occupation, Liberation' (chapter 7)
- week 7 **NO CLASS – FALL BREAK**
- week 8 ***At the Existentialist Café + 'The Question of Technology'***
 'Devastation' (*Café*, chapter 8)
 'The Question of Technology' by Martin Heidegger (RSV)
- week 9 ***At the Existentialist Café + 'Throwing Like a Girl'***
 'Life Studies' (*Café*, chapter 9)
 'Throwing Like a Girl' by Iris Marion Young (RSV)
- week 10 ***The Ethics of Ambiguity*** by Simone de Beauvoir
 'Ambiguity and Freedom' (chapter 1)
 'Personal Freedom and Others' (chapter 2)
- week 11 ***The Ethics of Ambiguity*** (cont'd)
 'The Positive Aspect of Ambiguity' (chapter 3)
- week 12 ***At the Existentialist Café + 'Preface' & 'The Body as Expression . . .'***
 'The Dancing Philosopher' (chapter 10)
 'Preface' to *The Phenomenology of Perception* by Merleau-Ponty (RSV)
 'The Body as Expression and Speech' also from *The Phenomenology* (RSV)
- week 13 [i]
 (Monday) ***At the Existentialist Café***
 'Croisés comme ça' (chapter 11)
 'The Eyes of the Least Favoured' (chapter 12)
- (Friday) [ii] **'A Plea for Intellectuals'** by Jean-Paul Sartre
 From *Between Existentialism and Marxism* by Jean-Paul Sartre (RSV)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

1. Identify **3 aspects** of the reading which were the most **interesting** and helpful *to you* and your interests in the context of this course and be prepared to explain and clarify your selection. (Compose one carefully worded paragraph for each point of interest explaining your choice for the 2-page report described in # 4 below.)
2. Identify **2 or 3 aspects** of the reading with which you had the most **difficulty**, either of comprehension or agreement, and be prepared to explain why this is so. (Compose one carefully worded paragraph for each point of difficulty clarifying the problems you have with the text for the 2-page report described in # 4 below.)
3. **Summarise** the principal 'argument' of the assigned reading in 3 or 4 sentences.
4. Prepare a 2-page typed, single-space **report** of all of the above to be handed to the instructor at the end of the class.

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (2016-17)

Assignments:

Unless specifically told otherwise by their instructors, students:

- must not use a plastic or cardboard cover or paper clips
- must staple the paper (there is a stapler on the essay box)
- must include the following:
 - student name
 - student number
 - course number and section
 - instructor's name
- No assignments will be accepted after the last day for handing in term work – see dates in next column.
- Assignments handed in through the essay box (just inside the glass doors, Paterson Hall, Floor 3A) must be dropped into the box by **4:15** on a regular business day in order to be date-stamped with that day's date. Assignments handed in after 4:15 or on a non-business day will be stamped as having been handed in on the next business day.
- Students are required to keep copies of their assignments. If your paper is lost at any point, you will be considered not to have submitted it if you cannot produce a copy immediately on request.

Deferrals for Term Work:

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a final assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply for a deferral of examination/assignment. For deferred examinations, you must apply within 5 working days after the scheduled date of your exam. To apply for deferral of a final assignment, you must apply within 5 working days of the last scheduled day of classes. Visit the Registrar's Office for more information.

Plagiarism:

It is the responsibility of each student to understand the meaning of 'plagiarism' as defined in the Undergraduate or Graduate Calendars, and to avoid both committing plagiarism and aiding or abetting plagiarism by other students. (Undergraduate Calendar Academic Regulations, section 14.3, or <http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv14/>)

Academic Accommodation:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Religious obligation: write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The **Paul Menton Centre** for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). Requests made within two weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. After requesting

accommodation from PMC, meet with your professor to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*) at <http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Important Dates:

Sept. 7	Classes start.
Sept. 20	Last day for registration and course changes in Fall and Fall/Winter courses.
Sept. 30	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from Fall term or two-term courses.
Oct. 10	Thanksgiving Day – University closed.
Oct. 24-28	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 25	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Dec. 9	Last day of classes, Fall term. Classes follow a Monday schedule.
Dec. 9	Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for Fall term courses.
Dec. 9	Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only).
Dec. 10-22	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Dec. 22	Take-home exams are due.
Jan. 5	Winter term classes begin.
Jan. 18	Last day for registration and course changes in Winter term classes.
Jan. 31	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter courses or winter portion of two-term courses.
Feb. 20	Family Day – University closed.
Feb. 20-24	Winter Break, no classes.
Mar. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Apr. 7	Last day of Fall/Winter and Winter term classes. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for Fall/Winter and Winter term courses.
Apr. 7	Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter and Winter term courses (academic purposes only).
Apr. 10-25	Final Examinations. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 14	Good Friday – University closed.
Apr. 25	Take-home exams are due.

Addresses:

Department of Philosophy:	3A35 Paterson Hall www.carleton.ca/philosophy 520-2110
Registrar's Office:	300 Tory www.carleton.ca/registrar 520-3500
Student Academic Success Centre:	302 Tory www.carleton.ca/sasc 520-7850
Writing Tutorial Service:	4 th Floor, Library http://www1.carleton.ca/sasc/writing-tutorial-service/ 520-6632
MacOdrum Library	http://www.library.carleton.ca/ 520-2735