

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER

Course Syllabus

PHIL 3304-001 (and 061): Existentialism

Combined section course: 061 is online | 001 meets MWF 10:10-11:05

Instructor: Gregory L. Bock, Ph.D.

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Required Textbook:

Basic Writings of Existentialism by Marino, Gordon ISBN: 9780375759895

I and Thou by Buber, Martin ISBN: 9780684717258

Catalog Description:

A study of humanity's place in the world as understood by philosophers like Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Buber, Sartre, and Camus

Course Outcomes:

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to...

1. articulate a basic understanding of the questions and importance of philosophy
2. identify the precursors to the philosophical ideas of existentialism
3. explain the influence of existentialism on contemporary thinking
4. explain Kierkegaard's ideas of authenticity, passion, and ethics
5. explain Nietzsche's view of truth, power, and ethics
6. articulate Buber's thoughts on the I-Thou relationship
7. explain Sartre's ideas of absolute freedom and existence precedes essence
8. explain the meaning of *The Myth of Sisyphus*

Grading Scale:

A=90-100%, B=80-89%, C=70-79%, D=60-69%, F=less than 60%

Grading:

Essays (4 @ 100 points each):	400 points
TOTAL:	400 points

Assessment

Essays

- 2000-3000 words
- Double-spaced
- No cover page
- Name and title at the top center of first page
- Page numbers on the bottom right of each page
- Standard twelve-point font (e.g. Times New Roman)
- One-inch margins
- .docx, rtf, or pdf file formats only
- The introduction should be no more than half a page.
- The conclusion should be no more than half a page and only review the main points.

ESSAY RUBRIC (100 POINTS)	
0-35 points	Is the philosophical content strong? The essay makes a clear claim (whether interpretation, persuasion, or application) and supports its claims well.
0-35 points	Are connections made with readings in the course? Student engages the textbook material closely, including at least three direct quotes with page numbers.
0-30 points	Is the paper well-written? Grammar is polished. Spelling is correct. Citations are appropriate and style conforms to Chicago Manual of Style .

Paper topics need to be approved by the instructor.

Additional instructions may be presented in the Canvas drop box.

Additional points will be deducted for late papers and papers that don't satisfy the "basic requirements" above. Cases of plagiarism earn an automatic zero and a possible F in the course. Plagiarized papers may be sent to UT Tyler Judicial Affairs to receive additional consequences. Using A.I. to write your paper for you is one example of plagiarism.

WRITING CENTER EXTRA CREDIT If you receive help from the Writing Center on an early draft and use the information to revise your paper, I will award you five extra credit points in the extra credit column, which amounts to half a letter grade on the paper. In order to receive extra credit, you must opt in to "email instructor" when you visit the Center. If I don't receive an e-mail from the Writing Center, you

will not receive credit. The Writing Center is often busy, so you must plan ahead and make an appointment. No exceptions will be made if you are too late in making your appointment.

PHILOSOPHY REVIEW EXTRA CREDIT I am happy to review a *full draft* of your paper for its philosophical content. If you turn in a draft of the paper no later than the class before it's due and use my comments about the philosophical ideas in the paper to revise your paper before turning in a final draft, I will award you five extra credit points, which is worth half a letter grade on the paper. For example, if the paper is due on Friday, you'd need to turn in your draft by Wednesday.

You are welcome to take advantage of both extra credit opportunities.

Course Policies:

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Late work policy: Make-ups will be allowed with a valid excuse, e.g. a doctor's note.

Communication policy: The best way to communicate with the instructor is through UT Tyler e-mail (gbock@uttyler.edu) or in Canvas. Students can expect replies within 48 hours excluding weekends and holidays. Students who do not receive a reply within this timeframe should attempt to contact the instructor again. The instructor communicates with the class via Canvas emails and announcements. It is important that students check their email and allow push notifications for class announcements.

Class conduct policy: The subject matter of this class can make some people hot under the collar. This said, all comments and behavior must be classroom appropriate. What does "classroom appropriate" mean? It does *not* mean that students cannot express unpopular opinions. It means practicing reasoning and logical argumentation. It means being civil and listening with respect. Insults, snide comments, name-calling, cutting someone off, derogatory tones, sarcasm, ridicule, cussing, vulgarity, personal attacks, racial slurs, misogynistic remarks, etc. will not be allowed. If you are unsure about what counts as disrespectful, consult the instructor or the Golden Rule. The instructor will act as the final word on what is or is not classroom appropriate. Violators may be ejected from the class.

Cell phone policy (face-to-face sections): Mobile devices can be used in the classroom if it is related to what is going on in class. They are permissible as long as they don't distract you or your classmates from the lesson.

Arriving late or leaving early policy (face-to-face sections): Arriving on time can sometimes be challenging, but it is better to be late than never. However, late arrivals and early departures can be disruptive.

Extra credit policy: Extra credit may be available at various times during the semester, but it is only made available at the discretion of the instructor and never upon request.

“It is what it is” final grade policy: Grades are final once the final grade percentage has been calculated in Canvas at the end of the semester. No changes will be made unless the instructor has made a mistake. Grades are not bumped up unless the student is within .5% of the next letter grade. For example, an 89.5% is an A. An 89.4% is a B. No extra credit opportunities will be given during the last week of class. The conditions for an “incomplete” are stated in the university handbook: “(a) the student has been making satisfactory progress in the course; (b) the student is unable to complete all course work or final exam due to unusual circumstances that are beyond personal control and are acceptable to the instructor; and (c) the student presents these reasons prior to the time that the final grade roster is due.” The terms and deadline for satisfying an “incomplete” will be set by the instructor.

A.I. policy: AI is permitted only for specific assignments or situations, and appropriate acknowledgment is required. For the readings, you may use A.I. to better understand what the authors say and what the ideas mean. Everything you write in class must be in your own words. You may use A.I. to do research, but your essays must be in your own words. This also means not just changing words here and there. If A.I. gives you something you want to use, track down the source (website) that you can cite in your reference list. The Writing Center can help you to cite properly, use direct quotes, and use paraphrasing appropriately.

Plagiarism policy: Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Plagiarism is taking credit for material that is not your own whether it is copied from a classmate, textbook, or online source (such as A.I.). Plagiarism is cheating, and cheating is the way of the Dark Side. If that isn’t enough of a deterrent in itself, plagiarizing will result in an F on the assignment and a possible F in the course. It could also mean suspension from the school. So, students should be sure to use proper citations and do their own work. If students are not sure whether something constitutes plagiarism, they should contact the instructor to ask about it before submitting the assignment. The penalty will apply whether the act of plagiarism is intentional or not.

[UT TYLER HONOR CODE](#)

I embrace honor and integrity.

Therefore, I choose not to lie, cheat or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.