Instructor: Dr. Andrew K. Whitehead  
Email: awhiteh8@kennesaw.edu  
Office: Social Sciences 4097  
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 13:00 – 14:00

Catalog Course Description:  
The course is a study of Existentialism including its historical roots in the nineteenth century, its major proponents in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century, and its impact on philosophy, literature and other academic disciplines.

Instructor’s Course Description:  
This course introduces students to a selection of major themes and figures in Existential philosophy. We will be discussing some of the major works of thinkers found in the philosophical tradition of Existentialism, including Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Sartre, Camus, and Beauvoir. The approach we will take is historical with respect to primary texts, but contemporary with respect to the issues and questions discussed.

Course Objectives:  
1. Develop an understanding of Existential problems, the history of Existentialism, and the philosophical methods espoused by different thinkers from the Existential tradition.  
2. Question claims made by Existentialists and to learn to test them against available evidence with a view to advancing general and transferable critical skills.  
5. Compare the tools and concerns of Existentialists with those of other philosophical and non-philosophical approaches and practices.  
6. Reach advanced levels of comprehension, argumentation, presentation and writing skills.

Course Format:  
Classroom sessions will combine formal lectures and informal discussions. Students are encouraged to participate actively in debate and to raise related issues relevant to their lives and experience. Students are expected to prepare all readings in advance of the sessions for which they are scheduled. Some of the assigned primary texts are difficult, but will be openly discussed in class and complemented with optional secondary readings.

Required Reading:  
The Essential Kierkegaard  
978-0691019406  
Hong and Hong (eds.)  
Princeton University Press

The Portable Nietzsche  
978-0140150629  
Walter Kaufmann (trans./ed.)  
Penguin Books (Portable Library)

Existentialism is a Humanism  
978-0300115468  
Carol Macomber (trans.)  
Yale University Press
The Stranger
978-0-679-72020-1
Albert Camus, Matthew Ward (trans.)
Vintage International

Additional primary readings will be made available online as electronic documents.

Attendance Policy:
Attendance is required. Students will not be able to succeed in this course without complete attendance. Responsibility for material covered while absent belongs solely with the student.

Electronic Devices Policy:
The volume on all electronic devices should be turned off in class. The use of cell phones is strictly prohibited in class. Students are welcome to use laptops for note-taking purposes only (no web based activity) if necessary. Any violation of this policy will negatively affect students’ participation grades.

Course Assessment:
- Reflective Essay 15%
- Presentation 15%
- In-Class Test (Mid-Term) 30%
- Major Term-Paper 40%

***N.B. Late assignments will automatically receive a mark of zero, unless official medical documentation is provided.***

Description of Assignments:
Reflective Essay: Your reflective essay should be formatted with double-spacing, 12 point Times New Roman font, and 1” margins, and follow MLA citation guidelines (see http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/02/). You are required to write 1000 words on any of the readings discussed to date in class, providing philosophical reflection on a point of your choosing. You are required to discuss and cite at least the primary reading selected and one secondary source. The essays are graded on a pass/fail basis in line with the following rubric:

1) Student has successfully identified and explained a significant point or argument in one of the appropriate readings
2) Student has adhered to the proper formatting regulations (-margin includes student name, number, course code, instructor name, date, and word count at beginning of essay (these do not count towards the word count)
3) Student has proofread the document for grammar and spelling
4) Student has cited at least one primary text
5) Student has provided a substantial reflection on the significant point or argument identified and explained using at least one secondary text (journal or book).

Presentation: All students are required to deliver a presentation on one of the readings from class. Your presentation should provide a clear and concise articulation of and engagement with one the relevant texts. You are expected to provide handouts for the entire class (including two copies of the handout for the instructor), outlining the major points of your presentation and how it serves to clarify the reading. Your presentation should last approximately 10 minutes. The presentation is graded as excellent (15/15), satisfactory (10/15), delivered (5/15), or fail (0/15).

Major Term-Paper: Your major term-paper should be formatted with double-spacing, 12 point Times New Roman font, and 1” margins, and follow MLA citation guidelines (see http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/02/). You are required to write 2500 words on a topic of your choosing, which must be approved by the instructor no less than two weeks before the deadline. In order to receive approval, you must schedule a meeting with the instructor to take place no less than
three weeks before the deadline and submit the following: a title and thesis statement, along with a provisional bibliography that includes at least three legitimate secondary sources in addition to at least one of the primary readings from class. Essays can be exegetical or critical in nature. The essays are graded according to the grading scale in line with the following rubric:

1) Student has successfully identified and explained a significant point or argument pertaining to the theme of the course and the material covered in class, which has been approved by the instructor no less than two weeks before the deadline following a scheduled meeting for thesis approval no less than three weeks before the deadline.
2) Student has adhered to the proper formatting regulations
   (ｱ) As outlined above
   (ｲ) Includes student name, number, course code, instructor name, date, and word count on a cover page (these do not count towards the word count)
3) Student has proofread the document for grammar and spelling
4) Student has cited and engaged with at least one primary text that has been approved by the instructor
5) Student has supported (or critiqued) the significant point or argument identified and explained using at least three legitimate secondary texts (journals and/or books).

Grading Scale:
Students are evaluated on the following scale:
A — 100 – 90
B — 89 – 80
C — 79 – 70
D — 69 – 60
F — <60

Academic Integrity:
The high quality of education at Kennesaw State University is reflected in the credits and degrees its students earn. The protection of high standards of academic integrity is crucial since the validity and equity of the University's grades and degrees depend upon it.

No student shall receive, attempt to receive, knowingly give or attempt to give unauthorized assistance in the preparation of any work required for credit (including examinations, laboratory reports, essays, themes, term papers, etc.). Unless specifically authorized, the presence and/or use of electronic devices during an examination, quiz, or other class assignment is considered cheating. Engaging in any behavior that a professor prohibits as academic misconduct in the syllabus or in class discussion is cheating. When direct quotations are used, they must be indicated, and when the ideas, theories, data, figures, graphs, programs, electronic based information or illustrations of someone other than the student are incorporated into a paper or used in a project they must be duly acknowledged. No student may submit the same, or substantially the same, paper or other assignment for credit in more than one class without the prior permission of the current professor(s).

Students suspected of violating the KSU statement of Academic Honesty will meet with the instructor to discuss the violation AND will be reported to the Department of Student Conduct according to the process outlined at the following link: https://web.kennesaw.edu/scai/content/scai-misconduct-procedures

To avoid plagiarizing, including unintentionally plagiarizing, please visit:
http://plagiarism.org/
http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml
http://www.library.arizona.edu/help/tutorials/plagiarism/index.html

Resources for writing a philosophy paper:
The KSU Writing Center
A free service offered to all KSU students. Experienced writing assistants work with you throughout the writing process (on concerns such as topic development, revision, research, documentation, grammar, and mechanics) although assistants cannot edit or proofread your paper for you. Appointments are strongly encouraged. For more information or to make an appointment, visit http://kennesaw.edu/writingcenter/, or stop by Room 242 in the English Building.

Your Professors and Instructors

ADA Compliance:
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Public Law 101-336, gives civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities. This statute guarantees equal opportunity for this protected group in the areas of public accommodations, employment, transportation, state and local government services and telecommunications.

Should you require assistance or have further questions about the ADA, please contact: Ms. Nastassia Sanabria, ADA Compliance Officer for Students 770-423-6443.

Topics and Readings (subject to change at the discretion of instructor):

Week 1—Aug. 19 and 21—Introduction: What is Existentialism?

Setting the Parameters (Week 2)
Week 2—Aug. 26 and 28—Existentialism and Popular Culture
Reading(s): Beauvoir, pp.317-326 (Online)
Beauvoir, pp.195-221 (Online)

Søren Kierkegaard (Week 3 – Week 7)
Week 3—Sept. 2 and 4—From the Papers of One Still Living and Three Discourses on Imagined Occasions
Reading(s): Essential Kierkegaard (EK), pp.13-19
EK, pp.164-169

Week 4—Sept. 9 and 11—Either/Or I
Reading(s): EK, pp.37-65

Week 5—Sept. 16 and 18—Either/Or II
Reading(s): EK, pp.66-83

Week 6—Sept. 23 and 25—Fear and Trembling and Repetition
Reading(s): EK, pp.93-101
EK, pp.102-115

Week 7¹—Sept. 30—Stages On Life’s Way
Reading(s): EK, pp.170-186

Review and In-Class Test (Week 8)
Week 8—Oct. 7 and 9—Review and In-Class Test

¹ No Class on Thursday October 2
Friedrich Nietzsche (Week 9 – Week 10)
Week 9—Oct. 14 and 16—Human All Too Human, The Wanderer and His Shadow, and The Gay Science
**Reflective Essay Due**
Reading(s): Portable Nietzsche (PN), pp.51-64
PN, pp.68-73
PN, pp.93-102

Week 10—Oct. 21 and 23—Beyond Good and Evil, The Gay Science (Bk. V), Toward a Genealogy of Morals, and Ecce Homo
Reading(s): PN, pp.443-446
PN, pp.447-450
PN, pp.450-454
PN, pp.657-660

Jean-Paul Sartre (Week 11 – Week 12)
Week 11—Oct. 28 and 30—Existentialism is a Humanism (EH)
Reading(s): EH, pp.17-54

Week 12—Nov. 4 and 6—Existentialism is a Humanism cont’d
Reading(s): EH, pp.54-72

Camus (Week 13)
Week 13—Nov.11 and 13—The Stranger
**Major Term-Paper Approval Deadline**
Reading(s): The Stranger, pp.3-123
EH, pp.73-98

Student Presentation (Week 14 – Week 15)
Week 14—Nov. 18 and 20—Student Presentations

Week 15—Dec. 2 and 4—Student Presentations
**Major Term-Paper due**

**IMPORTANT DATES:**
- First Day of Class: August 19
- Reading Day (No Class): October 2
- Last Day to Withdraw Without Academic Penalty: October 8
- In-Class Test: October 9
- Reflective Essay Due: October 14
- Major Term-Paper Approval Deadline: November 13
- Fall Break: November 24-30
- Major Term-Paper Due: 14:00, Thursday, December 4