All great problems demand great love, and of that only strong, round, secure spirits who have a firm grasp on themselves are capable. --Nietzsche

Philosophy [is] a critical disposition of wrestling with desire in the face of death, dialogue in the face of dogmatism, [and] democracy in the face of despotism. --Dr. Cornel West

Office Hours for Tom Pynn: SO 2008. MW 10-10:45 and 12:30-3; TR 10-10:45 and 12:30-3, and by appointment.

E-mail address: tpynn@kennesaw.edu. Use only for communication purposes. If you use the email on Georgia View Vista, there is a chance that I may not respond for a couple of days. You are more likely to get a quicker response by using my KSU address. Exams submitted electronically and without authorization will be deleted as received.

Office Hours for Tayler Moosa: TBA

E-mail address: bodhimoosa@gmail.com

Course Description: A study of Existentialism including its historical roots in the nineteenth century, their major exponents of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and their impact on philosophy, literature, and other academic disciplines.

Required Texts
The Nietzsche Reader. Friedrich Nietzsche
I and Thou. Martin Buber
Tragic Wisdom and Beyond. Gabriel Marcel
Essays in Existentialism. Jean-Paul Sartre
Misc. essays and posted on Georgia View

Suggested Texts
A Dictionary of Existentialism. Ralph B. Winn
A Companion to Phenomenology and Existentialism. Hubert L. Dreyfus
Evaluation: The student will demonstrate performative competence in communicating (through writing and speaking) his/her understanding of the material. Essay composition helps the student practice a range of writing and thinking skills, most important among these are development of ideas and appropriate idea transitions. The following are the three parts of a student’s performance with respective %s of grade. The grading scale is as follows: A: 90-100, B: 80-89, C: 70-79, D: 60-69; F: 59 and below.

- **Exams:** (80%) *I will offer five exams during the semester, but the student will choose and take four exams.* If the student does not like the grade he/she makes on an exam, the student may elect to complete a fifth exam; however, the lower grade will not be dropped. The fifth exam’s grade will be averaged in with the others. Each exam will emphasize readings and what is done in class. The take-home exams are in composition format with several prompts from which to choose one. Exams will be posted on Georgia View at least one week prior to the due date. Each exam emphasizes composition and critical thinking skills as well as content knowledge. If you are unsure of your composition skills please visit the writing center in the Humanities building. If you are unsure of your critical thinking skills please see Tayler or me during our respective office hours.

- **Attendance at Peace Studies and/or Mike Ryan Lectures:** (10%) Students will attend five course related lectures of their choice. Credit is acquired by meeting me at the lecture venue and recording your name on the roll. If you cannot attend any of the lectures, then you may choose to complete five summaries of *New York Times* articles. See NYT guidelines on Georgia View.

- **Class participation:** (10%) Class participation is willingly and spiritedly engaging in reading aloud, asking questions and freely participating in discussion of the topics at hand.

**Extra credit:** all exams must have been turned in order to receive extra points. Extra credit is obtained by completing a 500 word (minimum) summary of any presentation you attend outside of class that is directly relevant to the course. Each summary/critique you complete is worth up to 5 points and the points will be attached to the most recent exam relative to when you turn in the extra credit work. You may attend and compose summaries for as many lectures and/or presentations as you wish. **NOTE:** You may turn in only 2 extra credit writings with the last exam.

**Expected Outcomes:** By the end of the semester the student will

- Demonstrate a college-level understanding of the major figures, themes, and movements in the history of existential philosophy through reading, exams and writing assignments;
- use the existential concepts of the various philosophers and philosophical periods we have studied in reading, reading, exams and writing assignments;
• compare and contrast different existential schools of thought and their cultural and historical roots in both Western and non-Western contexts as evidenced in classroom discussion, reading, exams and writing assignments;
• identify and employ existential philosophical language by participating in classroom dialogue and writing expository compositions;
• be ethically sensitive to the role of cultural, social and political diversity in human thought and action by exploring with and responding to others in open dialogue about human diversity;
• critically examine her/his own social, cultural, and historical situation and its effects on individual, group, and national beliefs about the self, others, and the world through evaluating and discussing the social and historical origins and implications of those positions; and
• apply the ideas we study to his/her life as evidenced in classroom discussion, reading, exams and writing assignments.

**Academic Integrity Statement**

No student shall receive, attempt to receive, knowingly give or attempt to give unauthorized assistance in the preparation of any work required to be submitted 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 which a professor prohibits as academic misconduct in the syllabus or in class discussion is cheating. When direct quotations are used, they should 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 should 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).

**Absence Policy**

The student will neither be punished for absence nor rewarded for presence: however, the student is responsible for material covered: all readings, lectures, and documentary presentations. I will allow late exams only if the student contacts me about the absence at least one week prior to the exam date and/or if the student finds himself/herself in dire straits: e.g., giving birth, comatose, hospitalization for an extended period of time, and, of course, being dead. A student may email me their assignment(s) only if prior arrangements have been made with me.

**Schedule of Events**
January 10: Introduction to Existential Thinking. Readings on Georgia View: Hannah Arendt’s “What is Existential Philosophy?” and Dr. Stacy Keltner and Dr. Samuel Julian’s “Existentialism.”

Jan. 12-31: Friedrich Nietzsche’s Existential Thinking

Jan. 12: The Nietzsche Reader (TNR) xviii-xl, 1-17, 21-23, and 517-518
Jan. 17-19: TNR 33-41, 114-123, 142-150
Jan. 24-26: TNR 151-169, 179-182, and 187-190
Jan. 31- Feb. 2: TNR 243-292, 362-436
Feb. 7-9: TNR 297-310, 350-361, 362-389, and 408-423
Exam 1: February 7, 2012

Feb. 2-21: Martin Buber’s Existential Thinking

Feb. 7-9: Part 1, 17-44
Feb. 14-16: Part 2, 45-74
Feb. 21: Part 3, 75-112 and Postscript 113+

Exam 2: February 28, 2012

Feb. 23-March 20: Gabriel Marcel’s Existential Thinking

Feb. 23-28: Tragic Wisdom and Beyond (TWB) xiii-xxxv and 217-256
Feb. 28-Mar. 1: TWB, 3-32 and 187-213
Mar. 20: TWB, 80-90, 104-146, and 158-186

Exam 3: March 27, 2012

Mar. 22-Apr. 10: Some Women Existential Thinkers (all readings for this section are posted on Georgia View)

Mar. 22: Introduction to Women and Existential Thinking, Dr. Stacy Keltner
Apr. 3-5: Luce Irigaray, “‘He risks who risks life itself” and Helene Cixous, “La-The (Feminine)” and “Angst”
Apr. 10: Julia Kristeva, “Women’s Time”

Exam 4: April 17, 2012

April 12-26: Jean-Paul Sartre’s Existential Thinking

Apr. 12: Maurice Merleau-Ponty’s “The Philosophy of Existence”, Essays in Existentialism (EE) v-30, and “Jean-Paul Sartre” by Simone de Beauvoir
Apr. 17-19: EE, 31-186
Apr. 24-26: EE, 301-422

Exam 5: May 7, 2012

NOTE: Schedule of events and evaluation percentages subject to change by Fate, the insightful awareness of the instructor, and/or the collaboration between students and instructor.

Summary of Grading Percentages and Grading Scale

Four Essay Exams: 80%
Lecture Attendance: 10%
Participation: 10%

A: 90-100; B: 80-89; C: 70-79; D: 60-69; F: 59 and below

Important Dates
- MLK, Jr. Holiday: January 16, 2012
- Last day to withdraw with a W: March 12, 2012
- Spring Break: March 3-9, 2012
- KSU Peace Conference: March 30, 2012
- KSU Peace Project: March 31, 2012
- Last Day of Class: April 30, 2011