Philosophy 177A- Existentialism

Summer 2020
TR 3:15-5:20
78 Dodd Hall

Instructor: Vaheh Shirvanian
Email: vaheh.shirvanian@gmail.com
Office: 317 Dodd Hall
Office Hours: TBD

Course Description
This course will serve as an introduction to the existentialist philosophical tradition by way of exploring the themes of authenticity and inauthenticity. We will investigate these notions as they figure in the works of the existentialist thinkers Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir but also in the works of thinkers who influenced the existentialist tradition, namely Immanuel Kant, Friedrich Nietzsche, and especially Martin Heidegger. In laying the groundwork for this investigation of inauthenticity/inauthenticity, we will also explore such notions as being-in-the-world, being-with-others, the they/herd, anxiety, and resoluteness. Our guiding questions will be “What is authenticity? And is it something we should aspire to?”

Course Requirements

Section Attendance/Participation - 10%

Participation involves taking an active and respectful part in discussions during sections.

Midterm Paper (4-5 pages) - 40%

Final Paper (5-7 pages) - 50%

Late Assignment Policy
Midterm and final papers that are submitted late will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade (e.g. B+ to B) for every 24 hrs past the due date.

Code of conduct
Students are expected to follow the university’s policies regarding academic honesty. Academic misconduct includes plagiarism, cheating, and fabrication. When in doubt about what constitutes academic misconduct, consult your instructor for help. Any suspected cases of academic misconduct will be reported directly to the Office of the Dean of Students.

Readings
All required readings for the course will be posted on CCLE.

Reading Schedule

Week 1
Tuesday: Historical Introduction - No reading
Thursday: Kant - Selected Readings from “Critique of Judgment” on genius

Week 2
Tuesday: Nietzsche - “On the Uses and Abuses of History for Life”
Thursday: Heidegger - Being and Time, Div. 1, Ch.1,2

**Week 3**
Tuesday: Heidegger - Being and Time, Ch.3,4
Thursday: Heidegger - Being and Time, Ch.5,6
**MIDTERM PAPER DUE on Thursday at 11:59 pm**

**Week 4**
Tuesday: Heidegger - Being and Time, Div. 2, Ch.1
Thursday: Heidegger - Being and Time, Ch. 2

**Week 5**
Tuesday: Sartre - Selections on authenticity in “Being and Nothingness”
Thursday: Sartre - Selections on bad faith in “Being and Nothingness”

**Week 6**
Tuesday: De Beauvoir - Selections on authenticity in “The Ethics of Ambiguity”
Thursday: De Beauvoir - Selections on authenticity in “The Ethics of Ambiguity”
**FINAL PAPER DUE on Thursday at 11:59 pm**