Course Description:
An introduction to nineteenth and twentieth-century variants of existentialism. Readings include Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Sartre, Camus, and de Beauvoir. (Writing intensive.)

Course Goals:
The cultivation of the ability to critically reflect and express ideas in writing are major aims of the course. These abilities, when skilled, will help students make the most of their academic career here at Hamilton.

Course Format:
There will be some lecture, but the bulk of the class will be devoted to discussion.

Grading:
Grading is based on your written work and the command of the material demonstrated in class discussions. More specifically, your course grade will be calculated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Short Papers (5-7 pages)</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Final Paper (10-12 pages)</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>25%</td>
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</table>

N.B. All late work will be assessed a penalty of 1/3 grade per day.
*The Final Paper requires a writing conference that must be completed at least 48 hours before the due date.

Paper Due Dates:
#1 TBA
#2 TBA
Final Paper is due on scheduled exam day

Required Texts:
Guignon, Pereboom Eds. *Existentialism: Basic Writings*. Hackett
Camus, Albert. *The Fall*. Vintage
de Beauvoir, Simone. *The Ethics of Ambiguity*. Citadel
Reading Schedule (Tentative):
The readings for this course are often difficult to grasp. This being the case, you should allow yourself plenty of time to carefully reflect on the arguments and ideas presented in the texts.

### I. Introduction and Historical Background

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Section</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>General Introduction and course mechanics</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| W   | Human Existence  
First Critique Bvii - Bxxxi |
| F   | Dialectic and Mediation  
The Phenomenology of Spirit pp. 46-57. |

### II. Kierkegaard: Existence, Faith and Subjectivity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Section</th>
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</table>
| M   | Kierkegaard Introduction  
Guignon pp. 1-17. |
| W   | Either/ Or pp. 21-33. |
| F   | Either/ Or pp. 80-108.  
Assign Essay #1 |
| M   | Fear and Trembling pp. 18-47. |
| W   | Fear and Trembling pp. 47-69. |
| F   | NO CLASS |
| M   | The Sickness Unto Death pp. 24-31, 65-98. |
| W   | The Sickness Unto Death pp. 97-119. |
| F   | Concluding Unscientific Postscript  
(Handout) |

### III. Nietzsche and Camus: Aesthetic Responses to Nihilism

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Section</th>
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</table>
| M   | Introduction to Nietzsche  
Guignon pp. 85-110. |
| W   | Birth of Tragedy Sections 1-3 |
F  Untimely Meditations pp. 60-77.
M  Gay Science Part I (Selected Aphorisms)
W  Gay Science Part II (Selected Aphorisms)
F  Zarathustra “Upon the Blessed Isles”
M  NO CLASS
W  Genealogy of Morals Section I
F  Genealogy of Morals Section III pp. 533-564.
M  Genealogy of Morals Section III pp. 565-599.
W  Camus
Selections from The Myth of Sisyphus
F  The Fall pp. 1-41.
Assign Essay #2
M  The Fall pp. 42-71.
W  The Fall pp. 72-118.
F  The Fall pp. 119-147.

IV. Being, Consciousness, and Others
M  Heidegger Introduction I
   Guignon pp. 175-195.
W  Heidegger Introduction II
F  Being and Time I
   Guignon pp. 203-228.
M  Being and Time II
   Guignon pp. 228-246.
W Introduction to Sartre/ De Beauvoir

F Being and Nothingness
Guignon pp. 287-306.

M Being and Nothingness
Guignon pp. 306-322.

W Being and Nothingness
Guignon pp. 322-333.

F Being and Nothingness

M No Exit pp. 3-46.

Thanksgiving Break

V. Existentialism and the Possibility of Ethics

M The Tension between Existentialism and Ethics
(No Reading)

W Existentialism is a Humanism
Guignon pp. 268-286.

F The Ethics of Ambiguity pp. 7-34.

M The Ethics of Ambiguity pp. 35-96.

W The Ethics of Ambiguity pp. 129-159.

F SCHEDULE THE MOVIE