

WESTERN UNIVERSITY
Department of Philosophy
Undergraduate Course Outline 2025

PHILOSOPHY 2557F
Existentialism

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Information including instructor contact details and course location can be found on the course Owl BrightSpace: <https://westernu.brightspace.com/>

PREREQUISITE CHECKING

N/A

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the prerequisites for this course or have special permission to take the course without the prerequisites. [Student Responsibility for Course Selection](#)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Existentialists define who we are through what we do and how we live our lives. We cannot turn to external sources such as religion, morals, or public opinion to tell us what to do, or how to find meaning. That is our task in life. This does not mean we are responsible for others, for the environment, or for ourselves. But there is no formula for how to accomplish this

- Simone de Beauvoir, *The Ethics of Ambiguity* (New York: Citadel Press, 1962, 2000). In bookstore.
- Other readings will be made available on Overleafspace

METHOD OF EVALUATION

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

No electronic aids (including smart phones and smart watches) will be permitted for the exam.

STATEMENT ON THE USE OF GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

In this course, the use of AI (automatic translation tools, grammar checkers, ChatGPT...) is prohibited. If unauthorized AI use is suspected, the instructor will ask for research notes, rough drafts, essay outlines, and other materials used in preparing assignments. Students are expected to retain these materials until after final grades have been entered. In the unlikely event of concerns being raised about the authenticity of any assignment, students may be asked to produce these materials; an inability to do so may weigh heavily against them.

Absences at Final Exams

If you miss the Final Exam, please contact the Academic Advising office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/definitions.pdf

ACCOMMODATION

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation.

Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of 10 (e)3 (O)7ddt (e)3 (o)2 33.577d/um/s222u

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Requests without supporting documentation are limited to one per term per course.

Documentation for medical illness, when required, includes the completion of a [Western Student Medical Certificate \(SMC\)](#), where that is not possible, equivalent documentation, by a health care practitioner. Requests linked to examinations scheduled by the Office of the Registrar during official examination periods as well as practice laboratory and performance tests typically scheduled in the last week of term always require formal supporting documentation.

[Policy on Academic Consideration Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#)

https://registrar.uwo.ca/faculty_academic_counselling.html

SUPPORT SERVICES

Academic Advising

Your Home Faculty's Academic Advising Office will support or refer whenever you have an issue that is affecting your studies, including information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters. Do not hesitate to reach out to them if you are struggling and unsure where to go for help. Contact info for all Faculties is here:

https://registrar.uwo.ca/faculty_academic_counselling.html

Mental Health Support

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Genderbased and sexual violence

Western University is committed to reducing incidents of genderbased and sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website:

https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/gethelp.html. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact student_support@uwo.ca

Learning Development and Success

Counsellors at the Learning Development and Success Centre <https://learning.uwo.ca/> are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter term in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

USC

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, <https://westernusc.ca/services/>

THIS OUTLINE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE, GIVEN SUFFICIENT PRIOR NOTICE