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PHIL 467.01: 20th Century Continental Philosophy - Sartre

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20th CENTURY CONTINENTAL PHILOSOPHY: SARTRE
PHIL 467, SECTION 01 (72907)
LIBERAL ARTS BUILDING, ROOM 146
TR 12:40-2:00 P.M.
FALL SEMESTER 2001

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

A novelist, playwright, literary critic, political activist, and, of course, philosopher, Jean-Paul Sartre was one of the most imposing intellectual figures of the twentieth century. Despite his enormous influence in the post-war period, however, his thought was largely eclipsed by the 1960's. In contrast with Heidegger, with the rise of structuralism and poststructuralism, Sartre was deemed largely *passé*. One of the underlying questions that we shall deal with in this course, therefore, is whether Sartre's philosophy is (or at least should be) relevant today.

We shall begin by considering two of Sartre's early essays, *The Transcendence of the Ego* and *The Emotions: Outline of a Theory*. The focal point of these phenomenological works is the unbridled freedom of consciousness. We shall then spend, roughly, 8-9 weeks on his existential phenomenology, namely, *Being and Nothingness*. Next, we shall look at Sartre's *Anti-Semite and Jew*, which fleshes out the ethical implications of *Being and Nothingness*. And, finally, we shall conclude by spending a couple of weeks on *Search for a Method*, which was published as an appendage to the monumental *Critique of Dialectical Reason*, and gives the most concise formulation of his phenomenological Marxism.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Jean-Paul Sartre:

The Transcendence of the Ego, tr. Williams and Kirkpatrick, Hill and Wang, 1960 ("TE")
The Emotions: Outline of a Theory, tr. Frechtman, Citadel Press, 1975 ("E")
Being and Nothingness, tr. Barnes, Simon & Schuster, 1956 ("BN")
Anti-Semite and Jew, tr. Becker, Schocken Books, 1976 ("ASJ")
Search for a Method, tr. Barnes, Vintage Books, 1968 ("SM")

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

Your evaluation for the course will be based upon two tests, each of which will be worth 30% of your final grade, and a paper, which will be worth 40%. Tentatively, the tests are scheduled for Tuesday, October 16 and Thursday, December 13. However, I do reserve the right to reschedule the tests (with at least one week notice) if we do not move through the materials at a speed that conforms to the schedule below.

GRADING

Two Exams: 30% each
Paper (10-12 pages): 40%
Class Attendance and Participation: Up to One Increment of a Letter Grade

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Page numbers refer to *Introducing Philosophy*.

CLASS:	READINGS:
Sept. 4 Sept. 6	Administrative Matters/Introduction TE 31-60
Sept. 11 Sept. 13	TE 60-106 E 1-21, 50-94
Sept. 18 Sept. 20	BN 3-30 (The Pursuit of Being) BN 33-56 (The Origin of Negation)
Sept. 25 Sept. 27	BN 56-85 (The Origin of Negation continued) BN 86-116 (Bad Faith)
Oct. 2 Oct. 4	BN 119-158 (Structures of the For-Itself) BN 159-187 (Temporality)
Oct. 9 Oct. 11	BN 194-202, 207-237 (Temporality continued) BN 238-257, 267-279, 294-298 (Transcendence)
Oct. 16 Oct. 18	FIRST TEST BN 301-339 (The Existence of Others)
Oct. 23 Oct. 25	BN 340-400 (The Look) BN 401-404, 423-436, 445-470 (The Body)
Oct. 30 Nov. 1	BN 471-534 (Concrete Relations with Others) BN 534-556 (Concrete Relations with Others continued)
Nov. 6 Nov. 8	BN 557-619 (Freedom and Action) BN 619-637 (Freedom and "the Situation")
Nov. 13 Nov. 15	BN 637-711 (Freedom and Situation/Freedom and Responsibility) BN 712-734 (Existential Psychoanalysis)
Nov. 20 Nov. 22	BN 734-765, 785-798 (Doing and Having/Conclusion) THANKSGIVING
Nov. 27 Nov. 29	AS&J 7-58 AS&J 59-153
Dec. 4 Dec. 6	SM xxxiii-xxxv, 3-34 (Marxism and Existentialism) SM 35-84 (The Problem of Mediations)
Dec. 11 Dec. 13	SM 85-100, 124-127, 150-181 (P-R Method/Conclusion) SECOND TEST
Dec. 18	PAPER DUE