

Fall 2018
PHIL 4450, Section 01
Existentialism
Second Paper Assignment
Prof. Douglas Ficek

Write a paper, six-to-eight pages in length, on one of the following topics – preferably the one that you find the most interesting. Revise your work carefully, and remember to cite your sources correctly using APA, MLA, or Chicago guidelines. Your typed and stapled essay is due at the beginning of class on Monday, April 16th.

1. Who was Miguel de Unamuno, and why is he considered an existentialist? How does “In the Depths of the Abyss” illustrate his religious existentialism, and what do you make of it? Use three additional sources in your discussion.
2. Who was Martin Buber, and why is he considered an existentialist? What does he argue in *I and Thou*, and do you find his ethical philosophy compelling? Why or why not? Use three additional sources in your discussion.
3. Who was Jean-Paul Sartre, and why is he considered an existentialist? What existential themes does he explore in *Nausea*, and what do you make of his famous novel? Use three additional sources in your discussion.
4. Who was Albert Camus, and why is he considered an existentialist? What existential themes does he explore in *The Stranger*, and what do you make of his famous novel? Use three additional sources in your discussion.
5. Who was Simone Weil, and why is she considered an existentialist? What does she argue in “The Love of God and Affliction,” and how does this text illustrate religious existentialism? Use three additional sources in your discussion.
6. Who was Simone de Beauvoir, and why is she considered an existentialist? What does she argue in *The Ethics of Ambiguity*, and what do you make of it? Use three additional sources in your discussion.
7. Who was Keiji Nishitani, and why is he considered an existentialist? How does he understand religion, and what do you make of his existential analysis? Use three additional sources in your discussion.
8. Who is Lewis R. Gordon, and why is he considered an existentialist? What existential themes does he explore in his work, and what do you make of them? Use three additional sources in your discussion.