ENGL3015 - Existentialism: Literature and Philosophy

Course Overview

Lecturers

Chris Falzon (Course Co-ordinator)
Room: MC120
Ph: 4921 5184  Fax: 4921 6933
Email: Chris.Falzon@newcastle.edu.au
Consultation hours: Tuesday 3-4

Alistair Rolls
Room: MCG34
Ph: 4921 5559  Fax: 4921 6933
Email: Alistair.Rolls@newcastle.edu.au
Consultation hours: Wednesday 11-12

Bill Schaffer
Room: MC140
Ph: 4921 5755  Fax: 4921 6933
Email: Bill.Schaffer@newcastle.edu.au
Consultation hours: tba

Brief Course Description

Students will engage with the philosophy and fiction of Jean-Paul Sartre. The texts studied will include the following English-language translations: Being and Nothingness (London: Routledge, 1993), Nausea (London: Penguin, 2000), and The Wall (New York: New Directions, 1975). Students will learn to analyse philosophically and negotiate critically various aspects of the Sartrean account of human existence; they will also reflect on Sartre’s position within the main fictional movements of twentieth-century French literature, including Modernism, Surrealism and Postmodernism.

Course Outline Issued and Correct as at:  Week 1, Semester 1 - 2007

CTS Download Date: 9/02/07
Contact Hours
Lecture for 2 Hours per Week for the Full Term

Course Objectives
Upon successful completion of this course, students will have demonstrated an ability to:
- demonstrate an understanding of existentialist thought;
- analyse both philosophical and literary text;
- challenge their understanding of existence;
- reflect on the broader philosophical and literary contexts into which Sartre’s writing fits;
- perform textual criticism, challenging existing meanings and understandings of canonical texts and offering their own interpretations of primary material;
- develop research skills by engaging with secondary material;
- analyse the ways in which world-views are moulded by society’s control structures.

Course Content
The Philosophy of Existentialism, including:
- the notions of Being in the world;
- authenticity & bad faith;
- freedom & contingency.
The fictional representations of Existentialism in The Wall;
The seminal novel Nausea as creative writing and phenomenology;
Consideration of the literature of Existentialism in relation to Surrealism, Modernism & Postmodernism.

Assessment Items
| Essays / Written Assignments | 3 x 1,500-word essays (each worth a third of the course) |

Assumed Knowledge
20 units of English and/or Philosophy at 1000 level.

Callaghan Campus Timetable
ENGL3015
EXISTENTIALISM: LITERATURE AND FICTION
Enquiries: School of Humanities and Social Science
Semester 1 - 2007
Lecture Monday 13:00 - 15:00 [AT25]

Plagiarism
University policy prohibits students plagiarising any material under any circumstances. A student plagiarises if he or she presents the thoughts or works of another as one’s own. Without limiting the generality of this definition, it may include:
- copying or paraphrasing material from any source without due acknowledgment;
- using another’s ideas without due acknowledgment;
- working with others without permission and presenting the resulting work as though it was completed independently.
Plagiarism is not only related to written works, but also to material such as data, images, music, formulae, websites and computer programs. Aiding another student to plagiarise is also a violation of the Plagiarism Policy and may invoke a penalty. For further information on the University policy on plagiarism, please refer to the Policy on Student Academic Integrity at the following link -

School of Humanities and Social Science
The University has established a software plagiarism detection system called Turnitin. When you submit assessment items please be aware that for the purpose of assessing any assessment item the University may
- Reproduce this assessment item and provide a copy to another member of the University; and/or
- Communicate a copy of this assessment item to a plagiarism checking service (which may then retain a copy of the item on its database for the purpose of future plagiarism checking).
- Submit the assessment item to other forms of plagiarism checking

Written Assessment Items
Students may be required to provide written assessment items in electronic form as well as hard copy.

Extension of Time for Assessment Items, Deferred Assessment and Special Consideration for Assessment Items or Formal Written Examinations
Students are required to submit assessment items by the due date, as advised in the Course Outline, unless the Course Coordinator approves an extension of time for submission of the item. University policy is that an assessment item submitted after the due date, without an approved extension, will be penalised.

Any student:
- who is applying for an extension of time for submission of an assessment item on the basis of medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment; or
- whose attendance at or performance in an assessment item or formal written examination has been or will be affected by medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment;
must report the circumstances, with supporting documentation, to the appropriate officer following the instructions provided in the Special Circumstances Affecting Assessment Procedure - Policy 000641. Note: different procedures apply for minor and major assessment tasks. Please go to the Policy at http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html for further information, particularly for information on the options available to you.

Students should be aware of the following important deadlines:
- Requests for Special Consideration must be lodged no later than 3 working days after the date of submission or examination.
- Requests for Extensions of Time on Assessment Items must be lodged no later than the due date of the item.
- Requests for Rescheduling Exams must be lodged no later than 10 working days before the date of the examination.
Your application may not be accepted if it is received after the deadline. Students who are unable to meet the above deadlines due to extenuating circumstances should speak to their Program Officer in the first instance.

Changing your Enrolment
The last dates to withdraw without financial or academic penalty (called the HECS Census Dates) are: For semester 1 courses: 31 March 2007. Students may withdraw from a course without academic penalty on or before the last day of semester. Any withdrawal from a course after the last day of semester will result in a fail grade. Students cannot enrol in a new course after the second week of semester/trimester, except under exceptional circumstances. Any application to add a course after the second week of semester/trimester must be on the appropriate
form, and should be discussed with staff in the Student Hubs. To change your enrolment online, please refer to http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/enrolment/changingenrolment.html

Faculty Information
The Student Hubs are a one-stop shop for the delivery of student related services and are the first point of contact for students on campus. The four Student Hubs are located at:

Callaghan campus
• Shortland Hub: Level 3, Shortland Union Building
• Hunter Hub: Student Services Centre, Hunter side of campus

City Precinct
• City Hub & Information Common: University House, ground floor in combination with an Information Common for the City Precinct

Ourimbah campus
• Ourimbah Hub: Administration Building

Faculty websites
Faculty of Education and Arts http://www.newcastle.edu.au/faculty/education-arts/

Contact details
Callaghan, City and Port Macquarie Phone: 02 4921 5000 Email: EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au

Ourimbah Phone: 02 4348 4030 Email: EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au

The Dean of Students Resolution Precinct Phone: 02 4921 5806 Fax: 02 4921 7151 Email: resolutionprecinct@newcastle.edu.au

Deputy Dean of Students (Ourimbah) Phone: 02 4348 4123 Fax: 02 4348 4145 Email: resolutionprecinct@newcastle.edu.au

Various services are offered by the University Student Support Unit: http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/studentsupport/index.html

Alteration of this Course Outline
No change to this course outline will be permitted after the end of the second week of the term except in exceptional circumstances and with Head of School approval. Students will be notified in advance of any approved changes to this outline.


STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY OR CHRONIC ILLNESS

The University is committed to providing a range of support services for students with a disability or chronic illness. If you have a disability or chronic illness which you feel may impact on your studies, please feel free to discuss your support needs with your lecturer or course coordinator. Disability Support may also be provided by the Student Support Service (Disability). Students must be registered to receive this type of support. To register please contact the Disability Liaison Officer on 02 4921 5766, or via email at: student-disability@newcastle.edu.au As some forms of support
can take a few weeks to implement it is extremely important that you discuss your needs with your lecturer, course coordinator or Student Support Service staff at the beginning of each semester. For more information related to confidentiality and documentation please visit the Student Support Service (Disability) website at: www.newcastle.edu.au/services/disability

End of CTS Entry

STUDENTMAIL AND BLACKBOARD

Online Tutorial Registration:
Students are required to register in the Seminar or Lecture and a specific Tutorial time for this course via the Online Registration system: http://studinfo1.newcastle.edu.au/rego/stud_choose_login.cfm
Registrations close at the end of week 2 of semester.

Studentmail and Blackboard: www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/
This course uses Blackboard and studentmail to contact students, so you are advised to keep your email accounts within the quota to ensure you receive essential messages. To receive an expedited response to queries, post questions on the Blackboard discussion forum if there is one, or if emailing staff directly use the course code in the subject line of your email. Students are advised to check their studentmail and the course Blackboard site on a weekly basis.

Student Representatives
Student Representatives are a major channel of communication between students and the School. Contact details of Student Representatives can be found on School websites.

Student Communication
Students should discuss any course related matters with their Tutor, Lecturer, or Course Coordinator in the first instance and then the relevant Discipline or Program Convenor. If this proves unsatisfactory, they should then contact the Head of School if required. Contact details can be found on the School website.

Essential Online Information for Students
Information on Class and Exam Timetables, Tutorial Online Registration, Learning Support, Campus Maps, Careers information, Counselling, the Health Service and a range of free Student Support Services can be found at: http://www.newcastle.edu.au/currentstudents/index.html
ENGL3015 - Existentialism: Literature and Philosophy
Course Outline

TEXTS

The prescribed text for this course is Sartre’s *Nausea*. It is available at the Co-op Bookshop, located in Perkins Street in town. It is recommended that you buy the text, but copies will be placed in the Short Loans section of the library.

The reading for each week is listed in the lecture outline and will be made available through the Auchmuty Library Short Loans service (either in pdf file format or in print format), or by the lecturers. In addition, supplementary reading has been placed on Short Loans.

A limited number of copies of *The Wall* are also available from the Co-op bookshop should students wish to purchase them, as are copies of Sartre’s ‘Nausea’: *Text, Context, Intertext* (ed. Rolls & Rechniewski).

LECTURE OUTLINE

Lectures are on Mondays, 1-3pm, in AT25.

**Week 1** 19 February
Introduction

**Part A: Existentialism and Philosophy (Chris Falzon)**

**Week 2** 26 February
Absurdity and contingency
Reading: Sartre, *Nausea* (extract); Camus, *The Outsider* (extract)

**Week 3** 5 March
Freedom
Reading: Sartre, ‘Freedom and Facticity’, from *Being and Nothingness*
Sartre, ‘Freedom and Responsibility’, from *Being and Nothingness*

**Week 4** 12 March
Bad faith and authenticity
Reading: Sartre, ‘Patterns of Bad Faith’, from *Being and Nothingness*;
Sartre, ‘Childhood of a Leader’, from *The Wall*

**Week 5** 19 March
The look and relations with others
Reading: Sartre, ‘The Look’, from *Being and Nothingness*;
Sartre, *In Camera (No Exit)*
PART B: Existentialism and Literature (Alistair Rolls)

Week 6 26 March
Intimacy
Reading: Sartre, ‘Intimacy’, from The Wall

Week 7 2 April
Erostratus
Reading: Sartre, ‘Erostratus’, from The Wall
First essay due

MID-SEMESTER BREAK 6-20 April

Week 8 23 April
Nausea 1
Reading: Sartre, Nausea

Week 9 30 April
Nausea 2
Reading: Sartre, Nausea

PART C: Existential Cultural Studies (Bill Schaffer)

Week 10 7 May
Absurd Intimacy
Clips from Breathless (Godard), and Pulp Fiction (Tarantino)
Second essay due

Week 11 14 May
Freedom and murder
Clips from Crimes and Misdemeanors (Allen) and Pan’s Labyrinth (Guillermo Del Toro)
Reading: Camus, The Outsider (extract); Dostoevsky, Crime and Punishment (extract)

Week 12 21 May
Bad Faith
Clips from Waking Life (Linklater) and A Scanner Darkly (Linklater)

Week 13 28 May
Voyeurism (un)limited
Clips from Mulholland Drive (Lynch), The Truman Show (Weir) and Being John Malkovich (Spike Jonze)

Week 14 4 June
No lecture.
Third essay due
ASSESSMENT

This course contains compulsory components or assessment items that must be satisfactorily completed in order for a student to receive a pass mark or better for the course. These essential elements are described in the CTS.

The assessment for this course is 3 x 1,500-word essays (each worth a third of the course).

Essay 1 relates to the philosophy section of the course and is due on 2 April (week 7).
Essay 2 relates to the literature section of the course and is due on 7 May (week 10).
Essay 3 relates to the film section of the course and is due on 4 June (week 14).

Written Assignment Presentation and Submission Details

Students are required to submit assessment items by the due date. Late assignments will be subject to the penalties described below.

Hard copy submission:
- **Type your assignments**: All work must be typewritten in 11 or 12 point black font. Leave a wide margin for marker’s comments, use 1.5 or double spacing, and include page numbers.
- **Word length**: The word limit of all assessment items should be strictly followed – 10% above or below is acceptable, otherwise penalties may apply.
- **Proof read your work** because spelling, grammatical and referencing mistakes will be penalised.
- **Staple the pages** of your assignment together (do not use pins or paper clips).
- **University Assessment Item Coversheet**: All assignments must be submitted with the University coversheet available at: http://www.newcastle.edu.au/school/hss/studentlinks/studentform.html
- **By arrangement with the relevant lecturer, assignments may be submitted at any Student Hub located at**:
  - Level 3, Shortland Union, Callaghan
  - Level 2, Student Services Centre, Callaghan
  - Ground Floor, University House, City
  - Ground Floor, Administration Building, Ourimbah
- **Date-stamping assignments**: All students must date-stamp their own assignments using the machine provided at each Student Hub. Mailed assignments are accepted from the date posted, confirmed by a Post Office date-stamp; they are also date-stamped upon receipt by Schools.
- **Do not fax or email assignments**: Only hard copies of assignments will be considered for assessment. Inability to physically submit a hard copy of an assignment by the deadline due to other commitments or distance from campus is an unacceptable excuse.
- **Keep a copy of all assignments**: It is the student’s responsibility to produce a copy of their work if the assignment goes astray after submission. Students are advised to keep updated back-ups in electronic and hard copy formats.

Online copy submission to Turnitin
In addition to hard copy submission, students are required to submit an electronic version of the following assignments to Turnitin via the course Blackboard website:
- Essay 1, Essay 2, Essay 3
Prior to final submission, all students have the opportunity to submit one draft of their assignment to Turnitin to self-check their referencing. Assignments will not be marked until both hard copy and online versions have been submitted. Marks may be deducted for late submission of either version.

**Penalties for Late Assignments**
Assignments submitted after the due date, without an approved extension of time will be penalised by the reduction of 5% of the possible maximum mark for the assessment item for each day or part day that the item is late. Weekends count as one day in determining the penalty. Assessment items submitted more than ten days after the due date will be awarded zero marks.

**Special Circumstances**
Students wishing to apply for Special Circumstances or Extension of Time should apply online at [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html)

**No Assignment Re-submission**
Students who have failed an assignment are not permitted to revise and resubmit it in this course. However, students are always welcome to contact their Tutor, Lecturer or Course Coordinator to make a consultation time to receive individual feedback on their assignments.

**Remarks**
Students can request to have their work re-marked by the Course Coordinator or Discipline Convenor (or their delegate); three outcomes are possible: the same grade, a lower grade, or a higher grade being awarded.

Students may also appeal against their final result for a course. Please consult the University policy at: [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/forms/](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/forms/)

**Return of Assignments**
Students can collect assignments from a nominated Student Hub during office hours. Students will be informed during class which Hub to go to and the earliest date that assignments will be available for collection. Students must present their student identification card to collect their assignment.

**Preferred Referencing Style**
In this course, it is recommended that you use the Harvard in-text referencing system (similar to the APA system) for referencing sources of information used in assignments. Inadequate or incorrect reference to the work of others may be viewed as plagiarism and result in reduced marks or failure.

An in-text citation names the author of the source, gives the date of publication, and for a direct quote includes a page number, in parentheses. At the end of the paper, a list of references provides publication information about the source; the list is alphabetised by authors’ last names (or by titles for works without authors).

Further information on referencing and general study skills can be obtained from:

SUPPLEMENTARY READING

Sartre, J.-P. ‘Existentialism is a Humanism’, electronic copy in Short Loans.
Sartre, J.-P. (1947) *No exit (Huis clos) & The flies (Les mouches)* (New York: A.A. Knopf)