ENGL3015 - Existentialism: Literature and Philosophy
Course Outline

Chris Falzon (Course Co-ordinator)
Room: MC120
Ph: 02 49215184
Fax: 02 49216933
Email: Chris.Falzon@newcastle.edu.au
Consultation hours: Tue 12-1

Alistair Rolls
Room: MCG33
Ph: 02 4921 5559
Fax: 02 4921 6933
Email: Alistair.Rolls@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),
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.

Contact Hours
Lecture for 2 Hours per Week for the Full Term
Learning Materials/Texts
Sartre, J.-P. *Nausea*
Sartre, J.-P. *The Wall*
Texts downloadable from Short Loans

**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: Enquiries: School of Humanities and Social Science |
| Semester 1 - 2010 |
| Lecture Thursday 13:00 - 15:00 [MC132] |

**IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY INFORMATION**

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Academic integrity, honesty, and a respect for knowledge, truth and ethical practices are fundamental to the business of the University. These principles are at the core of all academic endeavour in teaching, learning and research. Dishonest practices contravene academic values, compromise the integrity of research and devalue the quality of learning. To preserve the quality of learning for the individual and others, the University may impose severe sanctions on activities that undermine academic integrity. There are two major categories of academic dishonesty:

**Academic fraud** is a form of academic dishonesty that involves making a false representation to gain an unjust advantage. Without limiting the generality of this definition, it can include:
a) falsification of data;

b) using a substitute person to undertake, in full or part, an examination or other assessment item;

c) reusing one’s own work, or part thereof, that has been submitted previously and counted towards another course (without permission);

d) making contact or colluding with another person, contrary to instructions, during an examination or other assessment item;

e) bringing material or device(s) into an examination or other assessment item other than such as may be specified for that assessment item; and

f) making use of computer software or other material and device(s) during an examination or other assessment item other than such as may be specified for that assessment item.

g) contract cheating or having another writer compete for tender to produce an essay or assignment and then submitting the work as one's own.

Plagiarism is the presentation of the thoughts or works of another as one's own. University policy prohibits students plagiarising any material under any circumstances. Without limiting the generality of this definition, it may include:

a) copying or paraphrasing material from any source without due acknowledgment;

b) using another person’s ideas without due acknowledgment;

c) collusion or working with others without permission, and presenting the resulting work as though it were completed independently.

Turnitin is an electronic text matching system. During 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 text matching service (which may then retain a copy of the item on its database for the purpose of future checking).

Submit the assessment item to other forms of plagiarism checking

RE-MARKS AND MODERATIONS

Students can access the University's policy at: http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000769.html

MARKS AND GRADES RELEASED DURING TERM

All marks and grades released during term are indicative only until formally approved by the Head of School.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES AFFECTING ASSESSMENT ITEMS

Extension of Time for Assessment Items, Deferred Assessment and Special Consideration for Assessment Items or Formal Written Examinations items must be submitted by the due date in the Course Outline unless the Course Coordinator approves an extension. Unapproved late submissions will be penalised in line with the University policy specified in Late Penalty (under student) at the link above.

Requests for Extensions of Time must be lodged no later than the due date of the item. This applies to students:

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.

Students must report the circumstances, with supporting documentation, as outlined in the Special Circumstances Affecting Assessment Items Procedure at:
Note: different procedures apply for minor and major assessment tasks.

Students should be aware of the following important deadlines:

- Special Consideration Requests must be lodged no later than 3 working days after the due date of submission or examination.
- Rescheduling Exam requests must be received no later than 10 working days prior the first date of the examination period.

Late applications may not be accepted. Students who cannot meet the above deadlines due to extenuating circumstances should speak firstly to their Program Officer or their Program Executive if studying in Singapore.

STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY OR CHRONIC ILLNESS

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 contact the Disability Liaison Officer on 02 4921 5766, 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 on confidentiality and documentation visit the Student Support Service (Disability) website: www.newcastle.edu.au/services/disability.

CHANGING YOUR ENROLMENT

Students enrolled after the census dates listed in the link below are liable for the full cost of their student contribution or fees for that term.

http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/fees/censusdates.html

Students may withdraw from a course without academic penalty on or before the last day of term. Any withdrawal from a course after the last day of term will result in a fail grade.

Students cannot enrol in a new course after the second week of term, except under exceptional circumstances. Any application to add a course after the second week of term must be on the appropriate form, and should be discussed with staff in the Student Hubs or with your Program Executive at PSB if you are a Singapore student.

To check or change your enrolment online go to myHub: https://myhub.newcastle.edu.au

STUDENT INFORMATION & CONTACTS

Various services are offered by the Student Support Unit: www.newcastle.edu.au/service/studentsupport/

The Student Hubs are a one-stop shop for the delivery of student related services and are the first point of contact for students studying in Australia. Student Hubs are located at:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Callaghan Campus</th>
<th>Port Macquarie students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shortland Hub: Level 3, Shortland Building</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter Hub: Level 2, Student Services Centre</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City Precinct</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City Hub &amp; Information Common, University House</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Coast Campus (Ourimbah)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>contact your program officer or <a href="mailto:EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au">EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone 4921 5000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Singapore students contact your PSB Program Executive
Dean of Students Office
The Dean of Students and Deputy Dean of Students work to ensure that all students receive fair and equitable treatment at the University. In doing this they provide information and advice and help students resolve problems of an academic nature.
http://www.newcastle.edu.au/service/dean-of-students/
Phone: 02 4921 5806
Fax: 02 4921 7151
Email: Dean-Of-Students@newcastle.edu.au

University Complaints Managers Office
The University is committed to maintaining and enhancing fair, equitable and safe work practices and promoting positive relationships with its staff and students. There is a single system to deal with all types of complaints, ranging from minor administrative matters to more serious deeply held grievances concerning unfair, unjust or unreasonable behaviour.
http://www.newcastle.edu.au/service/complaints/
Phone: 02 4921 5806
Fax: 02 4921 7151
Email: Complaints@newcastle.edu.au

Campus Care
The Campus Care program has been set up as a central point of enquiry for information, advice and support in managing inappropriate, concerning or threatening behaviour.
Phone: 02 4921 8600
Fax: 02 4921 7151
Email: campuscare@newcastle.edu.au

This course outline will not be altered after the second week of the term except under extenuating circumstances with Head of School approval. Students will be notified in advance of the change.

— oOo —

Lecture Outline

Week 1 - 4 March
Introduction

Part A: Existentialism and Philosophy (Chris Falzon)

Week 2 - 11 March
Absurdity and contingency
Reading: Sartre, Nausea (extract); Camus, The Outsider (extract)

School of Humanities and Social Science
**Week 3 - 18 March**
Freedom
Reading: Sartre, 'Freedom and Facticity', from Being and Nothingness
Sartre, 'Freedom and Responsibility', from Being and Nothingness

**Week 4 – 25 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 - 1 April**
The look, and relations with others
Reading: Sartre, 'The Look', from Being and Nothingness
Reading: Sartre, 'Intersubjectivity', from Being and Nothingness
Reading: Sartre: In Camera (No Exit)

**SEMESTER 1 RECESS (5-9 April)**

**Part B: Existentialism and Literature (Alistair Rolls)**

**Week 6 - 15 April**
Intimacy 1
Reading: Sartre, 'Intimacy', from The Wall
First essay due (for Part A)

**Week 7 - 22 April**
Intimacy 2
Reading: Sartre, 'Intimacy', from The Wall

**Week 8 - 29 April**
Nausea 1
Reading: Sartre, Nausea

**Week 9 - 6 May**
Nausea 2
Reading: Sartre, Nausea

**Part C: Existential Cultural Studies (Chris Falzon, Alistair Rolls)**

**Week 10 - 13 May (CF)**
Bad faith and freedom
Jean-Luc Godard's Breathless
Second Essay due (for Part B)

**Week 11 - 20 May (CF)**
Freedom and murder
Woody Allen's Crimes and Misdemeanors

**Week 12 - 27 May (AR)**
Baz Luhrmann's Shakespeare's Romeo + Juliet

**Week 13 – 3 June**
No lecture

**Week 14 – 10 June**
Third Essay due (for Part C)