

Title	Hannah and her Sisters
Director	Woody Allen
Date	1986
Area	20 th Century French Philosophy
Theme	Existentialism - Camus
Plot Summary	<p>Of the three sisters, the youngest (Barbara Hershey) lives with a spiritual mentor (Max von Sydow), an intellectual recluse who rails against the iniquities of modern society. The middle one (Dianne Weiss) is a frantic urban neurotic, forever borrowing money to pursue her latest career whim. The eldest (Mia Farrow), is apparently the most stable, presiding over a warm family circle; but all is not well, as Michael Caine is having an affair with the youngest sister; and sibling rivalry is rife. Wandering in and out of this is Woody Allen himself, playing a hypochondriac. When a medical crisis brings him close to death he starts to wonder whether life has any point, since we are all destined to die. He samples all the different religions but finds that he is unable to take refuge in religion, to commit 'philosophical suicide' (Camus), and is close to actual suicide when he comes to the realization that even if there is no God, and death turns out to be the end, he should stop worrying and enjoy life while it lasts, turning to the Marx Brothers as evidence that life can be enjoyed. Woody Allen's response is similar to that argued for by Camus – the proper response to life's absurdity is to 'revolt', to go on regardless and to enjoy the pleasures of the present.</p>
Key Scenes	
Relevant Text	