

Existentialism (7,5 ECTS credits)

Level: 1st cycle

Discipline: PHILOSOPHY

Course ID: 0340

Admission requirements

General admission requirements for university studies. Students taking part in the course as a part of their Bachelor's degree program must have completed Course A, Introduction in Philosophy and Theology (30 ECTS credits). Students taking part in the course as a freestanding course are expected to have corresponding prior knowledge.

Educational goals

After completing the course, the student is expected to be able to:

- Define and describe central concepts of existentialism, such as existence, authenticity, freedom, anxiety, guilt and time.
- Discuss and compare the thought of a number of important philosophers in the existentialist tradition.
- Critically examine and evaluate typical questions and central topics in existentialism.

Course content

Existentialism was one of the last century's most important philosophical traditions. Philosophers like Simone de Beauvoir and Jean-Paul Sartre asked themselves what living an authentic life means. They struggled with questions about existence, freedom, anxiety, guilt, and lethargy. The questions that the existentialists raised were not new, as one can find them in different guises all the way from antiquity up to the present time. The course takes the concepts and thoughts developed by the 20th century existentialists as a point of departure and relates them to questions and concerns of our contemporary society.

Teaching and examination

Local teaching and examination

The course consists of lectures and seminar discussions based on readings. Examination is by two course papers (50 % of the final grade each).

Bibliography

John Macquarrie: *Existentialism: An Introduction, Guide and Assessment* (Pelican Books, 1973).

See also "Kursplaner: allmänna bestämmelser" (Course plans: General rules)

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Valid as 2024-01-15