



Existence and authenticity: an introduction to Existentialism

Start date 30 September 2016 **End date** 02 October 2016

Venue Madingley Hall
 Madingley
 Cambridge

Tutor Claire Grant **Course code** 1617NRX015

Director of Programmes Emma Jennings

For further information on this course, please contact Public Programme Coordinator, Clare Kerr
clare.kerr@ice.cam.ac.uk or 01223 746237

To book See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746262

Tutor biography

Claire Grant is a graduate of Queens' College Cambridge, where she was also a Munro Fellow. She has taught undergraduate students in Tripos at the University since 1994 and continues to teach students in Philosophy and HSPS today. She is also fortunate to teach international students for Pembroke College, Cambridge in a variety of Tripos papers. Claire's areas of teaching and research interest lie predominantly in analytic moral, political and social philosophy. Her latest published paper employs the concept of negative liberty to address a problem of freedom. Claire has given invited talks at numerous Universities, for instance at Oxford, Berkeley, Delhi and Melbourne. Outside her activities in philosophy, Claire enjoys reading and writing poetry and playing with her young son. She has taught several courses for the ICE.

Course programme

Friday

Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

19:00	Dinner
20:30 – 22:00	Session 1 Existence
22:00	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Saturday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	Session 2 Nietzsche
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Session 3 Kierkegaard
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Free
16:00	Tea
16:30 – 18:00	Session 4 Heidegger
18:00 – 18:30	Free
18:30	Dinner
20:00 – 21:30	Session 5 Marcel
21:30	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Sunday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	Session 6 Sartre
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Session 7 Beauvoir
12:45	Lunch

The course will disperse after lunch

Course syllabus

Aims:

To introduce students to works by leading existentialist philosophers
To introduce students to the contributions of existentialism as a distinctive critical stance in philosophy

Content:

Existentialism is a great adventure in the thinking of human existence. It arose in the mid-nineteenth century in response to a perceived neglect of the irreducibly subjective character of human existence. Existentialists strove to understand human existence as such and maintained that traditional philosophy had obscured such an understanding. In the first session students will benefit from an introduction to the existentialists' focus on existence. In rendering their arguments the proponents of existentialism mounted a striking challenge to the metaphysical suppositions of both ancient and modern philosophy. Existentialists also brought their approach to bear upon criticism of modern societies and in the subsequent sessions we will consider works by leading existentialist philosophers in these respects. They are Nietzsche, Kierkegaard, Heidegger, Marcel, Sartre and Beauvoir.

Presentation of the course:

Each session involves a lecture by the tutor, followed by class discussion

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

Develop an insight into the work of some leading existentialist philosophers
Develop a view of the contributions of existentialism to philosophy

Reading and resources list

The following are works that we will be considering, or to which reference will be made:

S. Kierkegaard 1846 *Concluding Unscientific Postscript to Philosophical Fragments*
F. Nietzsche 1874 *Schopenhauer as Educator*
M. Heidegger 1927 *Being and Time*
G. Marcel 1933 'On the Ontological Mystery'; 1949 *Being and Having*; 1951 *The Mystery of Being*; 1962 *Man Against Mass Society*; 1973 *Tragic Wisdom*
J.-P. Sartre 1943 *Being and Nothingness*; 1946 'Existentialism is a Humanism'; 1952 *Saint Genet*
S. de Beauvoir 1947 *Ethics of Ambiguity*; 1949 *The Second Sex*; 1948 *America By Day*

Each of these texts can be found online and any edition will do. There is no need to read them before the course unless you want to. A handout will be provided including discussion extracts during the course.

Note Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

Information correct as of: 22 August 2016