

Spokane Falls Community College  
**COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES AND OUTLINE**

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**Course Title**

**Modern Philosophical Problems**

**Prefix and Course Number**

**PHIL 231**

**Last Modified: FALL 2017**

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**Course Learning Outcomes**

**By the end of this course, a student should be able to:**

1. Understand the distinctive critique existentialism has made of the human condition in modern time.
2. Be conversant with the theories of representative existentialist thinkers of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.
3. Have a familiarity with at least one novel of ideas and an awareness of existentialism's ready use of fiction to dramatize concepts.
4. Develop an appreciation of the impact of existentialism upon contemporary ideas and culture.

**Course Outline**

**I. Nature of the inquiry**

- A. Aims of philosophy
- B. Existentialism in the context of philosophy

**II. Introduction to Principal Topics and Themes**

- A. The modern condition
- B. The nature of value
- C. The role of choice
- D. An absurd existence?

**III. The Philosophic Novel**

Note: at this early stage in the course, the instructor may select a novel such as Camus' The Stranger, Sartre's Nausea, de Beauvoir's When Things of Spirit Come First, or Dostoevsky's Underground Man as an illustration of existentialist perspectives.

**IV. Nineteenth Century Existentialism**

- A. Kierkegaard
- B. Nietzsche
- C. Dostoevsky

**V. Existentialism in the Twentieth Century**

- A. Heidegger
- B. Jaspers
- C. Sartre
- D. Marcel
- E. Camus

**VI. The Cultural Impact of Existentialism**