



Phil. 113-01, Existentialism and Phenomenology Spring '22

With Dr. Dan C. Williamson

MW 1:30-2:45 Sweeney Hall 241

Required texts: (additional optional writings will be available; e.g.: *The Stranger* by Camus)

Gordon Marino, ed.; *Basic Writings of Existentialism*, New York, Modern Library 2004, 078-0-375-759899-5

Dermot Moran and Moody, eds., *The Phenomenology Reader*, New York, Routledge, 2002, 978-0-415-22422

Enquirer: "*Why am I here?*"

Existentialist and Phenomenologist: "*You are, you were thrown into the world.*"

Enquirer: "*But what should I do and who should I be?*"

Both would answer, "*The life is your road to take, but know that you don't take it alone, but are responsible to everyone else.*"

Both disciplines, though not entirely the same, attempt to come to grips anew with the perennial questions of existence. They all stand, to one extent or the other, at the crossroads of the modern and post-modern world of technology and science. Both critique these worlds as stripping the individual of meaning or making her/him into a biologically determined set of circuits, reducible to a bag of chemicals and not much more. Both disciplines fly in the face of this while trying to put away the last vestiges of metaphysics and, as with Husserl, make peace with science by remaking science. From Kierkegaard onwards this varied group grapples with the fundamental questions from ontological, religious, epistemological and ethical perspectives. The class will attempt to meet and engage many of these fascinating thinkers within the semester.