Administrative Unit: History and Social Sciences Department

Course Prefix and Number: PHIL 358

Course Title: Existentialism

Number of: Credit Hours: 3 Lecture Hours: 3 Laboratory Hours: 0

Catalog Description: An investigation of the philosophy of existentialism. The class will consider the different views of the self in existentialist thought, the relationship of the self to the world and to others, and the nature of human freedom and responsibility. Occasional offering.

Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Junior standing or instructor’s permission.

Text(s): Sartre. Being and Nothingness.

Heidegger. Being and Time.

Course Objectives:

• To become familiar with the matter and method of contemporary continental philosophy.
• To become familiar with some of the classic texts from existential phenomenology.
• To understand the views of some of the giants of existential phenomenology as well as the arguments in support of those views.
• To understand the lasting relationship contemporary continental philosophy has with the history of Western philosophy.

Measurable Learning Outcomes

• Read classic philosophical prose for critical understanding.
• Understand the classic issues and problems in existential phenomenology.
• Formalize sophisticated philosophical arguments.
• Analyze and provide criticism of sophisticated philosophical arguments.
• Analyze and provide criticisms of sophisticated philosophical arguments.
• Understand the method of Western philosophy.
• Understand the method of Western philosophy and how contemporary philosophy treats existential phenomenology.

Topical Outline (major areas of coverage):

• Rejection of Cartesian Dualism
• “To the things themselves!”
• Self and world
• Temporality
• Freedom and Responsibility
• Being with Others
Recommended maximum class size for this course: 20

Library Resources: Online databases are available at http://www.ccis.edu/offices/library/resources.asp. You may access them from off-campus using your eServices login and password when prompted.

Prepared by: Mark L. Price

Name ____________________________ Signature ____________________________

Date: March 14, 2006

NOTE: The intention of the master syllabus is to provide an outline of the contents of this course, as specified by the faculty of Columbia College, regardless of who teaches the course, when it is taught or where it is taught. Faculty members teaching this course for Columbia College are expected to facilitate learning pursuant to the course objectives and cover the subjects listed in the topical outline. However, instructors are also encouraged to cover additional topics of interest so long as those topics are relevant to the course’s subject. The master syllabus is, therefore, prescriptive in nature but also allows for a diversity of individual approaches to course material.

Office of Academic Affairs
12/04