

EXISTENTIAL PSYCHOLOGY (PSY 290)

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Office Hours: This semester I have class from 9-10:50 am and 12-12:50 on M-W-F, and 1:30-2:45 on T-Th. So, typically, you can find me in my office 11-11:45 and 1:00-3:00 on M-W-F and 9:00--1:15 on T-Th.

Course Objectives and Format

The primary objective in this course is to help you gain a greater understanding of what psychologists refer to as "existential psychology." This area of psychology is comprised of a loose collection of concepts philosophies. Topics include meaning and purpose, esteem and self-efficacy, freedom and responsibility, rightness and wrongness, mortality and permanence, suffering and loss, and so forth.

Readings

There are readings to complete before particular class meetings. All such readings are online, with links and directions at www.SmellsLikeCollege.com/ExistentialPsy.

Expectations / Grading

Take-Home Exam (60 possible points): Near the very end of the course there will be a take-home essay exam. You will be given the question(s) or topic(s) approximately one week prior to the due date. The exam must be typed, double-spaced with one-inch margins and 12-point font (Times New Roman). Because there will be a grading rubric sheet to attach to the front of your essay, there is no need for a title page. Simply dive into addressing the objectives. The limit is two typed pages. For each day an exam is turned in past the due date, 2 points (3%) will be deducted from the final grade.

Threaded Discussion Entries (20 possible points each): To practice applying the concepts in the course to ideas and material outside of the course, and to continue the discussion outside of the classroom, we will maintain a small set of threaded discussions through the course portlet on Koala Connection. When you post an entry within one of the discussions, I will check the entry for conformity to the basic format and requirements (relevancy, proper punctuation, spelling, grammar, etc.). If the entry meets all of the basic requirements, it will be graded for content and a total score assigned. If the basic requirements are not met, you will receive a copy of the grading rubric with those missing requirements noted. If you still wish for this entry to be considered for a grade, make the changes to the entry and resubmit the rubric you received. At that point, your entry will be graded, regardless of whether it now fulfills all of the basic requirements. You are encouraged to continue to contribute to the threaded discussions even after your two graded entries have been completed. However, only the first two graded entries will count toward your course grade.

Cheating and Plagiarism: Although it is perfectly fine to discuss the exam topics with your classmates, under no circumstances should a student copy what another student has written. Students suspected of any unethical behavior will be turned over to the appropriate personnel on campus for investigation.

Final Grade: The total number of possible points in the course equals 100: 90-100 = **A**, 88-89 = **B+**, 80-87 = **B**, 78-79 = **C+**, 70-77 = **C**, 60-69 = **D**, less than 60 = **F**.

In Case of an Emergency School Closing

If we have an unexpected evacuation or closing of the college, continue to follow the assigned reading schedule. If the college closes for a substantial length of time, monitor Koala Connection and your college e-mail account for information and directions. You can contact the instructor via e-mail at Michael@mindingthemind.com and/or mwiederman@columbiasc.edu.

Special Individual Arrangements

If you need accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in the event the building must be evacuated, please see me.

DATE TOPIC

Sept. 27	Introduction to the Course
Sept. 29	What do we mean by "existential" psychology? What are the core existential needs?
Oct. 1	
Oct. 4	
Oct. 6	
Oct. 8	
Oct. 11	
Oct. 13	
Oct. 15	<i>No Class – Fall Break</i>
Oct. 18	
Oct. 20	
Oct. 22	
Oct. 25	
Oct. 27	
Oct. 29	Course Wrap-Up and distribution of take-home exam topic/rubric

Rubric for Threaded Discussion Entry

Name: _____ Date of Entry: _____ Thread Topic: _____

If there is no score/grade, you have the opportunity to correct any of the missing components noted below and return this form. Returning this form will cue me to re-evaluate and grade your entry as it is at that point.

Comments/Feedback: _____

Score: _____