ADPL 2500, Philosophy of Human Experience  
Fall, 2015  
4 Credits

Instructor: Evan Clarke  
Office: Stokes N241  
Office Hours: By appointment  
Schedule (class times and day(s)): Thursday 6:15-9:15  

Boston College Mission Statement
Strengthened by more than a century and a half of dedication to academic excellence, Boston College commits itself to the highest standards of teaching and research in undergraduate, graduate and professional programs and to the pursuit of a just society through its own accomplishments, the work of its faculty and staff, and the achievements of its graduates. It seeks both to advance its place among the nation’s finest universities and to bring to the company of its distinguished peers and to contemporary society the richness of the Catholic intellectual ideal of a mutually illuminating relationship between religious faith and free intellectual inquiry.

Boston College draws inspiration for its academic societal mission from its distinctive religious tradition. As a Catholic and Jesuit university, it is rooted in a world view that encounters God in all creation and through all human activity, especially in the search for truth in every discipline, in the desire to learn, and in the call to live justly together. In this spirit, the University regards the contribution of different religious traditions and value systems as essential to the fullness of its intellectual life and to the continuous development of its distinctive intellectual heritage.

Course Description
This course examines the nature of human experience from a variety of philosophical perspectives. Drawing insights from the phenomenological, existentialist, and Thomist traditions, we consider themes such as embodiment, the experience of others, and the experience of time.

Course Objectives
1. The student will gain knowledge of the phenomenological, existential, and Thomist traditions in philosophy, as demonstrated by the ability to characterize and contrast these traditions in written assignments.
2. The student will learn to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view, as demonstrated by thoughtful class participation and written work.
3. The student will demonstrate knowledge across cultural and historical settings, as demonstrated by an ability to engage with works of philosophy from different cultures and historical periods.
4. The student will demonstrate ethical knowledge and discernment as reflected in his or her capacity to thoughtfully and critically respond to the authors that we take up in class.

Grading
10% Attendance  
10% Active Participation in Class  
50% Two 4-5 page essays  
30% Final Exam

WCAS Grading System
The undergraduate grading system consists of twelve categories: A (4.00), A- (3.67), excellent; B+ (3.33), B (3.00), B- (2.67), good; C+ (2.33), C (2.00), C- (1.67), satisfactory; D+ (1.33), D (1.00), D- (.67), passing but unsatisfactory; F (.00), failure; I (.00), incomplete; F (.00), course dropped without notifying office; W (.00), official withdrawal from course. The graduate grading system is A (4.00), A- (3.67), Excellent; B+ (3.33), B (3.00), B- (2.67), good; C+ (2.33), C (2.00), C- (1.67), satisfactory; D+ (1.33), D (1.00), D- (.67), passing but unsatisfactory; F (.00), failure; I (.00), incomplete; F (.00), course dropped without notifying office; W (.00), official withdrawal from course.
(3.33), B (3.00), good; B- (2.67), C (2.00), passing but not for degree credit; F (.00), failure.

Grade Reports. All students are required to log into the web through Agora to access their semester grades. Students must utilize their BC username and password to log on. If your username or password is not known the HELP Desk located in the Campus Technology Resource Center (CTRC) in O’Neill Library will issue a new one. The CTRC requires a valid picture ID (a BC ID, driver’s license or passport) to obtain your password.

**Required Readings**

Maurice Merleau-Ponty – *The World of Perception* (Routledge)

Jean-Paul Sartre – *Existentialism is a Humanism* (Yale University Press)


All other readings will be distributed in class.

**Recommended Readings**

http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/phenomenology/

http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/existentialism/

**Important Policies**

http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/schools/advstudies/guide/academicinteg.html

**Written Work**

Graduate and undergraduate students are expected to prepare professional, polished written work. Written materials must be typed in the format required by your instructor. Strive for a thorough, yet concise style. Cite literature appropriately, using APA, MLA, CLA format per instructors decision. Develop your thoughts fully, clearly, logically and specifically. Proofread all materials to ensure the use of proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling. You are encouraged to make use of campus resources for refining writing skills as needed [http://www.bc.edu/libraries/help/tutoring.html].

**Scholarship and Academic Integrity**

It is expected that students will produce original work and cite references appropriately. Failure to reference properly is plagiarism. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not necessarily limited to, plagiarism, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, cheating on examinations or assignments, and submitting the same paper or substantially similar papers to meet the requirements of more than one course without seeking permission of all instructors concerned. Scholastic misconduct may also involve, but is not necessarily limited to, acts that violate the rights of other students, such as depriving another student of course materials or interfering with another student’s work.

**Request for Accommodations**

If you have a disability and will be requesting accommodations for this course, please register with either Dr. Kathy Duggan (dugganka@bc.edu), Associate Director, Connors Family Learning Center (learning disabilities or AHD) or Dean Paulette Durrett, (paulette.durrett@bc.edu), Assistant Dean for
students with disabilities, (all other disabilities). Advance notice and appropriate documentation are required for accommodations. For further information, you can locate the disability resources on the web at http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/libraries/help/tutoring/specialservices.html.

**Attendance**
Class attendance is an important component of learning. Students are expected to attend all classes and to arrive by the beginning of and remain for the entire class period. When an occasion occurs that prevents a student from attending class, it is the student’s obligation to inform the instructor of the conflict before the class meets. The student is still expected to meet all assignment deadlines. If a student knows that he or she will be absent on a particular day, the student is responsible for seeing the instructor beforehand to obtain the assignments for that day. If a student misses a class, he or she is responsible for making up the work by obtaining a classmate's notes and handouts and turning in any assignments due. Furthermore, many instructors give points for participation in class. If you miss class, you cannot make up participation points associated with that class. Types of absences that are not typically excused include weddings, showers, vacations, birthday parties, graduations, etc. Additional assignments, penalties and correctives are at the discretion of the instructor. If circumstances necessitate excessive absence from class, the student should consider withdrawing from the class. In all cases, students are expected to accept the decision of the instructor regarding attendance policies specific to the class.

Consistent with our commitment of creating an academic community that is respectful of and welcoming to persons of differing backgrounds, we believe that every reasonable effort should be made to allow members of the university community to observe their religious holidays without jeopardizing the fulfillment of their academic obligations. It is the responsibility of students to review course syllabi as soon as they are distributed and to consult the faculty member promptly regarding any possible conflicts with observed religious holidays. If asked, the student should provide accurate information about the obligations entailed in the observance of that particular holiday. However, it is the responsibility of the student to complete any and all class requirements for days that are missed due to conflicts due to religious holidays.

There may be circumstances that necessitate a departure from this policy. Feel free to contact the WCAS at 617-552-3900 for consultation.

**Deadlines**
Assignments are due at the beginning of the class period on the specified dates. Late assignments will be graded accordingly.

**Course Assignments** (readings, exercises and/or experiences)

It is expected that 8 hours per week of your study time will be spent reading the assigned texts, and completing the assigned writing exercises. Please note that some weeks will require more time and some weeks less time but the average is approximately 8 hours per week over the semester.

The short essays should be typed in 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, and 4-5 pages in length. The essay topics will be distributed at least one week in advance. 3% will be deducted for every day late.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sep 3.</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 17.</td>
<td>Maurice Merleau-Ponty, <em>The World of Perception</em>, pp. 69-113</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 24.</td>
<td>Jean-Paul Sartre, <em>Existentialism is a Humanism</em></td>
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<td>Oct 8.</td>
<td>John Russon, <em>Human Experience</em></td>
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<td>Oct 15.</td>
<td>John Russon, <em>Human Experience</em></td>
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<td>Oct 22.</td>
<td>John Russon, <em>Human Experience</em></td>
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<td>Oct 29.</td>
<td>John Russon, <em>Human Experience</em></td>
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<td>Nov 5.</td>
<td>Marcel Mauss, &quot;Techniques of the Body&quot;</td>
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<td>Nov 19.</td>
<td>U.T. Place &quot;Is Consciousness a Brain Process?&quot;</td>
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<td>J.J.C. Smart &quot;Sensations and Brain Processes&quot;</td>
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<td>Dec 3.</td>
<td>Thomas Nagel, &quot;What Is It Like To Be a Bat?&quot;</td>
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<td>Dec 10.</td>
<td>Review</td>
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Please note: The reading list and reading schedule are subject to change at the instructor's discretion.

**In addition, students are expected to complete the following out-of-class course assignments:**

4-5 Page Essays – October 5, November 23