Syllabus - Introduction to Existentialism

Instructor: Abiy Tasissa, aftasiss@mit.edu

Prerequisites or Co-Requisites:
Willingness to participate in class discussions and complete assigned readings.

Textbooks and Materials:
Materials will be posted on the website.

Course Policies:
It is important that students do the assigned readings and attend lectures. Students will also present a final project by the end of the course. The final project will be an artistic expression of the thoughts experienced in the class. Students are encouraged to use any form and guidance is provided where needed.

Futility, Finitude and Death
June 30: Introduction to Existentialism and Syllabus
July 1: Camus, selections from The Stranger, The Fall and The Myth of Sisyphus
July 5: Selections from The Death of Ivan Ilyich
July 6: Selections from Sickness Unto Death
July 7: Film: The Seventh Seal and Discussion

Leap to Absurdity
July 8: The Rotation Method (Either/Or)
July 12: Diary of a Seducer (Either/Or)
July 13: Film: Waiting for Godot
July 14: Selections from Notes from Underground
July 15: Fear and Trembling

Existing Beyond Good and Evil
July 19: Genealogy of Morals, Essay one
July 20: Beyond Good and Evil, "The Prejudices of Philosophers"
July 21: Beyond Good and Evil, Part two -- "The Free Spirit"
July 22: Beyond Good and Evil, "What is Noble", part nine
July 26: Art gallery : Field Trip

Sartre - Self and being with Others
July 27: Sartre, “Existentialism is a Humanism”
July 28: Sartre, “Existentialism is a Humanism”
August 2: Film: Run Lola Run
August 3: Sartre “Nausea” and “Bad Faith”
August 4: Sartre “Being and Nothingness”
Reflection and Wrap Up
August 5: Presentation Guideline and Film Ikiru
August 9: Presentation
August 10: Presentation
August 11: Reflection on Presentation and discuss Purpose
August 12: Final Class and Wrap Up