

**French 426 20th-Century French Literature  
Fall 2007**

**Tuesday / Thursday 12:45 pm-2:05 pm FAC  
254 (updated daily)**

**Instructor: Nathan Love, Ph.D. (I.U.)**

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**Office hours: M-F 9:00 am-10:00 am & by  
appointment**

**Web page: <http://edtech.wku.edu/~nlove>**

**Blackboard: <http://ecourses.wku.edu>**

**Required books: *Huis Clos / Les mouches*  
(Sartre, Jean-Paul), *L'existentialisme est  
un humanisme* (Sartre, Jean-Paul), *Les  
jeux sont faits* (Sartre, Jean-Paul), *Les  
mains sales* (Sartre, Jean-Paul),  
*L'étranger* (Camus, Albert), *L'exil et le  
royaume* (Camus, Albert)\*, *La peste*  
(Camus, Albert), *Le mythe de Sisyphe*  
(Camus, Albert) \* **needed only if you do not  
have *l'Hôte*****



The Study of  
World Languages  
at WKU

**Go to week 1**

**Go to exam 1**

**Go to exam 2**

**Go to final exam**

**Go to grades**

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**F426 French Literature of the 20th Century** counts toward fulfilling the French minor and major literature distribution requirement. **F201** and **F202** or the equivalent are indispensable prerequisites. At least one of the following French literature courses will provide important preparation for reading: **F314**, **F325**, **F326**. Through coursework, experience abroad, and other cultural encounters, the Modern Languages Program cultivates communicative skills and cultural awareness that prepare students at Western Kentucky University to be more knowledgeable and sensitive citizens of the global community.

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**The course goals** follow in order of priority:

**1. Familiarity with literature of the 20th-century in**

**France:** especially literature falling into the broad thematic category of existentialism

**2. Reading French prose, essay and fiction with discernment and critical understanding:** students will gain an understanding of currents of thought as expressed in philosophical writing from the 17th through the 20th centuries in French as demonstrate how to discern the extent to which those currents inform the fiction of Jean-Paul Sartre and Albert Camus.

**3. Speaking, comprehension and pronunciation:** students will learn to speak and understand expository French by preparing oral presentations concerning either aspects of the works on the program or secondary literature bearing on the authors or philosophical currents that fall within the scope of the course.

**4. Writing:** students will learn to write essays in French which explore the interplay between thought and fiction.

**5. Critical thinking:** evidence of analysis of cogent thinking as you reflect on the argumentation of our authors and discernment of subtle similarities and distinctions among the readings.

**6. Preparation:** To be prepared linguistically to take yet more advanced French.

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**Participation and attendance:** class attendance is mandatory, and participation is essential; speaking French at every opportunity will help a student with speaking and listening skills. Participation will assure progress toward communication skills. Students are to check **Blackboard** (<http://ecourses.wku.edu>) or **my Web page** (<http://edtech.tph.wku.edu/~nlove/426-20th/f426fall2007.htm>) and stay abreast of announcements, assignments and changes in the syllabus frequently. In the

event that it is necessary to miss class, it is the responsibility of the student to find out what was covered and to learn the appropriate material. Upon returning to class students are expected to be fully prepared: ready to participate, to turn in assignments, and to take quizzes or exams as scheduled. When/if you miss a class meeting, you can be relatively certain that you missed at least one quiz (see below). **If absent, one should contact me before the next class meeting** – not to explain or excuse the absence, but in order to find out what was accomplished and, especially, what is to be prepared outside of class, unless you believe that you know with certainty what was missed and have no questions about it. To bolster participation you may elect to present to the class an exposé in addition to the two exposés that are obligatory.

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**Auditing** An auditor is one who enrolls and participates in a course without expecting to receive academic credit. The same registration procedure is followed and the same fees charged as for courses taken for credit. An audited course is not applicable to any degree or certificate program. Regular class attendance is expected of an auditor. Other course requirements, which may be obtained in writing from the instructor, will vary depending on the nature of the course. Students interested in auditing a course should secure permission from the instructor and discuss course requirements prior to enrolling. Failure to meet course requirements may result in the auditor being withdrawn from the course at the request of the instructor. A successful audit will be recorded on the transcript with the designation AU. (from: ***Academic Requirements and Regulations, Undergraduate Course Catalog***)

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**Assignments** (or homework) will be posted on the timeline part of the syllabus below by means of a link on the date by which the assignment is due. Thus to know what is to be prepared for the August 28 class meeting, click on the link on "28 août 07" below. (You will know when the assignment has been uploaded, as the date will appear in bold, and turn blue as a link upon passing the mouse over it.) There will be questions or assignments regularly posted on Blackboard or the Web page to be completed **before the next class**. This semester there may be an assignment from time to time in Blackboard's Discussion Board related to class participation.

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**Quizzes** will be done in class, although most can be prepared for before class. There will likely one short quiz every class meeting, covering what has been assigned or recently treated during class. Quizzes over what is assigned will provide an indication whether the assignment has been completed and understood. Quizzes covering what has been recently presented or discussed during class will provide an indication of your emerging skills, especially concerning comprehension of ideas expressed in French, orally or in writing. **Quizzes will be numerous; and may not be made up if missed**. Since they will be numerous, you may well miss some or do poorly on others. Rather than drop a certain number of quizzes, your quiz average will be curved to allow for the normal vicissitudes of life.

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**Exposés:**On vous demande de faire au moins deux exposés, dont un sur Camus et un deuxième sur Sartre. Vous écrivez une présentation qui ne dépasse pas cinq minutes, c'est tout! Vous expliquez un passage littéraire, commentez un personnage ou un thème; et, de toute façon,

vous m'en parlez - ou mieux encore, vous me le montrez avant de le présenter en cours. Pour appuyer une participation faible, on peut présenter un exposé supplémentaire, un troisième exposé.

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**Exams:** Both exams are meant to gauge your progress toward the course goals with an efficient use of exam time. They test the language skills you are acquiring, and are not limited to simply covering language content: material, pages, exercises or tables that can be memorized on short order. For both, consequently, you will speak French, listen to French, read some French and write French -- and not merely rehash specific phrases, vocabulary or exercises. There will be no make up exams. If you anticipate a problem with taking an exam when it is scheduled, or **if you should miss an exam, contact me at your earliest opportunity!** The day and time of the final exam are established by the Registrar. Whereas there may be changes on the syllabus below, **the day and time of the final exam are absolute.** Please do not make plans, therefore, at variance with our scheduled final exam.

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**Expectations**, in summary, are as follows. **Students** are expected 1) to study, do assignments, and prepare for class, 2) to attend class, contribute and participate during class, 3) avail themselves of resources, and to seek help from instructor when appropriate, including during office hours or by appointment, 4) to demonstrate knowledge and language skills in progress against what is expected, 5) to work, for instance, on pronunciation, listening comprehension and recognition of spoken vocabulary, 6) to submit by deadlines work required, 7) to turn in for a grade the student's own work and, of course, not to permit work to be used by another for his/her graded assignments. 8) to stay abreast of announcements, assignments and changes in the syllabus at least three times each

week. 9) to keep cell phones turned off and silent during class; to keep cell phones and other electronic devices capable of communication/data retrieval out of sight during all graded activities. **The instructor** is expected 1) to be prepared for teaching each class session, 2) to offer clear examples and explanations, 3) to encourage participation from students, 4) provide opportunities for you to hear, speak, write and read French and to offer, specifically, as much oral practice in class as possible, 5) to meet with students during office hours and by appointment outside of class, 6) to be fair-minded at all times, 7) to respect students, and their beliefs and opinions, 8) to challenge students to meet the course goals as fully as possible. (Click on **statement on teaching** to read my thoughts on the entire subject.)

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**Study** some French every day without exception and you will discover why language courses used to meet daily. The best way to learn, to meet course objectives and to maximize benefits derived from study of French is without a doubt to study some French every day. **You will not be particularly successful if you learn the material for the moment only.** What you learn for a given day or for a given exam you will need to retain throughout the semester and specifically for the final exam which is cumulative.

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**Resources** available include the textbooks, consultations and extra practice during office hours. Please drop by my office during office hours for five minutes or so for a short, friendly chat before mid-semester. I can find more resources for anyone needing more than these, and would be pleased to do so. For additional resources for individuals, **click here.**

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**Course Grade -- sources & weights:**

- **Participation/Presentation:** 10%
- **Exposés (2 x 10%) dont un sur Camus et un sur Sartre:** 20%
- **Exam 1:** 20%

- **Exam 2:** **30%**
- **Exam 3:**

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**Academic dishonesty:** “Students who commit any act of academic dishonesty may receive from the instructor a failing grade in that portion of the course in which the act is detected or a failing grade in the course without possibility of withdrawal” (from the **2006-2007 online student handbook**). Acts of academic dishonesty include the use of a translating device to complete writing assignments and failing to turn cell phones and PDAs off before taking an exam. Student work may be checked using plagiarism detection software. See Western's statement on **academic dishonesty** in the **2006-2007 online student handbook** for more information. See the same source for university policy on **plagiarism** - "To represent written work taken from another source as one's own is plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious offense. The academic work of a student must be his/her own. One must give any author credit for source material borrowed from him/her. To lift content directly from a source without giving credit is a flagrant act. To present a borrowed passage without reference to the source after having changed a few words is also plagiarism." *Students enrolled may not assist one another on graded exercises.*

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**Students with disabilities** who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services in DUC A-200 of the Student Success Center in Downing University Center. Please **DO NOT** request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.

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**Changes:** Changes to all matters above may become necessary, especially regarding the syllabus and/or the due dates of graded work.

The instructor reserves the right to make such changes as he/she deems necessary. It is the responsibility of the student to obtain the most recent iteration of the syllabus either as posted on the Blackboard site for this course or as made available in the classroom.

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## Première Partie

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1 mardi	28 aug 07	<b>Auteurs du 20<sup>e</sup> siècle ; Esquisse d'une histoire de la littérature française ; initiation au cours</b>
2 jeudi	30 aug 07	<b>Descartes <i>Discours de la méthode</i> (extraits) ; (texte intégral) (texte commenté)</b>
3 mardi	04 sep 07	<b>Descartes <i>Méditations</i> (extraits) ; (texte intégral) ; questions ; corrigé</b>
4 jeudi	06 sep 07	<b>Pascal <i>Pensées</i> : les deux infinis</b>
5 mardi	11 sep 07	<b>Pascal <i>Pensées</i> (extraits) ; questions</b>
6 jeudi	13 sep 07	<b>Kierkegaard, Husserl &amp; Heidegger ; Questions ; Pascal : l'homme et la nature</b>
7 mardi	18 sep 07	<b>Auguste Comte, Henri Bergson, Merleau-Ponty, Simone de Beauvoir &amp; révision</b>
8 jeudi	20 sep 07	<b><i>journée Molière</i></b>

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## Deuxième Partie

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9 mardi	25 sep 07	<b>Camus <i>Le mythe de Sisyphe</i> ; Pascal et Camus ; examen 1 &amp; exercice de préparation</b>
10 jeudi	27 sep 07	Camus <i>L'exil et le royaume</i> : <i>L'Hôte</i> ; <b>questions ; exam 1 corrigé</b>
11 mardi	02 oct 07	Camus <i>L'Étranger</i> ; <b>questions 1ère partie</b>
12 mardi	09 oct 07	Camus <i>L'Étranger</i> ; <b>questions 2ème partie</b>
13 jeudi	11 oct 07	Camus <i>La Peste</i> ; <b>questions ; en cours</b>
14 mardi	16 oct 07	Camus <i>La Peste</i>  Last day to drop a full semester course with a W. Last day to change a full semester course from credit to audit.
15 jeudi	18 oct 07	Camus <i>La Peste</i> (extraits sur le père Paneloux) ; <b>midterm course evaluation</b>
16 mardi	23 oct 07	exposés et révision ; Camus <i>La Peste</i> (extraits sur le père Paneloux) ; <b>portraits de la Bruyère (17<sup>e</sup> siècle)</b>
17 jeudi	25 oct 07	<b>examen 2 - format</b>

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## Troisième Partie

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18 mardi 30 oct 07 exposés Camus et **Sartre** *L'existentialisme est un humanisme (extraits) (texte intégral) , plan*

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19 jeudi 01 nov 07 Sartre *la Nausée ; L'Être et le néant 1* ; « **le regard** » ; Sartre vidéo : **engagement , en contexte** )

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20 mardi 06 nov 07 Sartre *L'Être et le néant 2*

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21 jeudi 08 nov 07 Sartre *Les mouches* , questions

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22 mardi 13 nov 07 Sartre *Les mains sales* , questions

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23 jeudi 15 nov 07 Sartre *Huis Clos* , questions ; **extrait vidéo**

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24 mardi 20 nov 07 Sartre *Huis Clos*

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25 mardi 27 nov 07 Sartre *Huis Clos*

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26 jeudi 29 nov 07 exposés et *Huis Clos* (on fait du théâtre)

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27 mardi 04 dec 07 exposés et *Huis Clos* ; **enfer**

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28 jeudi 06 exposés & révision ; **l'existentialisme est un**  
dec **humanisme**  
07 **Roster freeze**

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vendredi 14 **Final Exam - format** (Written & Oral) 10:30  
dec a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
07

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Changes to the foregoing may be deemed necessary by the instructor. It is the responsibility of the student to obtain the most recent iteration of the syllabus either as posted on the instructor's web page or as made available in the classroom.

**Course Grade | Projet Camus | Projet Sartre | Exam  
1 | Exam 2 | Final Exam |**