



Edvard Munch's *The Scream* (1893)

Course Description

This course is an introduction to existentialism through a study of its historical foundations and principal exponents. We will start with a historical grounding in the works of Soren Kierkegaard, Friedrich Nietzsche, and Martin Heidegger, all of whom were influential sources in what would go on to become 20th century existential philosophy. The remaining of the course will explore the three main exponents of existential philosophy: Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir, and Frantz Fanon. Our analysis will center on some of the principal concepts of existential philosophy, such as freedom, meaninglessness, alienation, authenticity, faith, and death. Instruction will consist of brief lectures and classroom discussion.