

## **Politics and Existentialism**

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Professor Stephen Bronner, SAS - Political Science

TH 1:10-4:10P

Honors College Rm S124

College Ave Campus

**Will Count Towards SAS-Political Science Major**

**Will Count Towards SAS-Political Science Minor**

Existentialism is usually associated with philosophy and/or literature departments. Yet there is a great deal of political import in existential thought. Its chief concern with individual responsibility and its articulation of a “counter-canon,” which include philosophical disquisitions and works of literature, make existentialism especially salient for better understanding contemporary political matters.

This course will concern itself with existentialism as it developed in the nineteenth century and grew in popularity during the twentieth century. Authors dealt with will include Nietzsche, Heidegger, Camus, Sartre, De Beauvoir, and others. We will read some of their classic writings and view their thinking in concert with a changing world. We will also analyze the different ways in which their thought has been appropriated with an eye on the politics of the twentieth century. Requirements will include an in-class presentation, two take-home examinations of approximately 15 pages each, and active class participation.

STEPHEN ERIC BRONNER is a Board of Governors Professor of Political Science. He received his B.A. from the City College of New York and his Ph.D. from the University of California: Berkeley. His works have been translated into over a dozen languages and they include: *Socialism Unbound* (Westview); *Of Critical Theory and Its Theorists* (Routledge); *A Rumor about the Jews: Anti-Semitism, Conspiracy, and the 'Protocols of Zion'* (Oxford University Press); *Reclaiming the Enlightenment: Toward a Politics of Radical Engagement* (Columbia University Press); *Blood in the Sand: Imperial Fantasies, Rightwing Ambitions, and the Erosion of American Democracy*; *Peace Out of Reach: Middle Eastern Travels and the Search for Reconciliation* (University Press of Kentucky).