

STEVENSON COLLEGE CORE COURSE

2017 – 2018

SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

READING ASSIGNMENT:

Over the summer, please read pages 341-367: Jean-Paul Sartre, “Existentialism,” in Gordon Marino, ed., *Basic Writings of Existentialism* (New York: Modern Library, 2004. ISBN: 0-375-75989-1).

You may purchase the book from [Bay Tree Bookstore](#), your [local bookstore](#), or on-line sources such as [Amazon](#) or [Barnes & Noble](#).

WRITING ASSIGNMENT (Due on the first day of class)

Your summer assignment is to make complete, detailed, analytic, interpretive reading notes of the essay as you read it. We will call this exercise your “road map” of the text.

Directions for your road map:

- Capture all content to the best of your ability. Don’t let any ideas slip through the cracks. This probably means making notes on each paragraph you read. Note page numbers throughout so you can easily find passages later.
- Think of the roadmap as part receptive (you trying to engage and understand the essay) and part creative (you writing down your own ideas and questions).
- Notice your understanding as you go:
 - If you think you understand a passage, paraphrase it and jot down your response. Generate a question, objection, or example.
 - If you aren’t sure you understand a passage, imagine a couple of different interpretations and sketch them.
 - If you are a bit lost, try to pinpoint why. Is there a word or reference you don’t understand? Is the sentence or paragraph particularly complex? Write down any questions, concerns or insights about why a part is tough to “get.”
- Ways to make your roadmap most valuable:
 - Copy your favorite (and least favorite!) quotes.
 - Remember connections between this essay and other texts you’ve read or topics you’ve studied. Note that connection in your road map.
 - Let the text help you generate your own questions about “self and society.” Write down these queries, right in the middle of your road map.
 - Draw, make diagrams, use arrows, or flowcharts to help you clarify content.

Be ready to discuss the piece at the first meeting of your Core Course section.

Some issues to consider as you read:

- What do we all have in common as human beings? How does Sartre answer this question?
- How should we solve moral dilemmas? How does Sartre judge the moral decision-making process of his young student? (see pp. 350-353)
- How would you describe our social responsibilities to one another? Based on what you have read, how do you predict Sartre might answer this question?