

**PHIL P-387**  
**Addressing Nihilism Through Comedy**  
**Spring 2019**

**Class Meeting: Tuesday, Thursday: 11:15 a.m.- 12:30 p.m., Ballantine Hall, 111**

**Professor: Jake Spear**

**Office Hours: By appointment. I will not respond to emails, please contact me by telegraph with any questions.**

**Course Description**

Living is shitty. This class intends to dive into to the deep meaninglessness of existence, by addressing brilliant nihilist philosophers such as Sartre, Nietzsche and Seinfeld. Each week, we'll dissect the things that make life meaningful and deem them irrelevant. Throughout this course, you'll come to terms with the fact that your life is pointless, and you'll learn to laugh at the horror that is living.

**Course Requirements**

**1. Attendance:**

I expect you to attend each class meeting and to be fully engrossed in the topic. I'm probably going to ramble incoherent nonsense about my personal life for half of it, but I can assure you, I will get pissed if you don't listen. I don't offer unexcused absences, so if you wake up hungover, you better get your ass to this class, otherwise you will lose points.

Attendance will be taken in class and points earned according to the following scale:

0-1 absences: 36 points	4 absences: 28 points	6 absences: 10 points
2-3 absences: 32 points	5 absences: 20 points	7+ absences: Why did you even take this class?

Accommodations will be made for absences due to *university-sanctioned* events. For those of you asking, yes you need to come to class during Little 5 week, but you're free to bring alcohol to share with the class. (See section 4)

**2. Textbook:**

I have a required text *Life and Laughter; a Biography of Dr. Spear* require all my students to purchase a signed copy. I need to pay my rent somehow.

**3. Seating**

My class has assigned seating. After the second class, I will take attendance and make the seating chart. Though I do have a rule that students cannot sit in the front row if they are ugly.

**4. Food in the Classroom:**

Food and drink are allowed in the classroom so long as any drinks have a lid. But if you start eating in class, you must loudly moan while chewing. I also suggest you bring enough for the entire class, so we can all moan together.

**5. Emergencies:**

Should an emergency arise, you are required to be my human shield. This is just common sense; whose life is more valuable? A college undergraduate, or a 63-year-old professor who understands basic utilitarianism.

**6. Tommy:**

Tommy, this is your third time in this class, please pass; I don't want you here anymore. You know what, if you come to 3/4s of the classes, and buy 3 copies of my book, I'll give you a C+.

**7. Technology**

I have a strict no-technology policy. Research has demonstrated the educational benefits of not spending my entire class on fucking Zappos. However, I'm understanding, and I make exceptions for students using technology to follow me on Instagram, Tik Tok, and Twitter.

**8. Personal Matters**

Sharon, if you're reading this let me see the kids, please.

**9. Tests:**

I'm not very clear with my grading criteria, and to be honest, I don't even know how you're going to be graded yet. We will probably have class for a couple weeks to make you feel comfortable with the class, and then a random test that has nothing to do with the content I covered. Good luck with that.

**10. Homework:**

As for homework. I'll probably give you 3 days to complete the assignments but take a month to grade them. You definitely won't be sure about your final grade until after the semester ends.

**11. Office Hours:**

I don't hold regular office hours, but feel free to reach out if you need anything. My office is at 39.1°N, 86.5°W. If you've read this far in the syllabus you automatically get an A, meet me in my office with the code word "Pistachio."