

# Philosophy Group @ Ipswich Institute

## Sartre, *Existentialism & Humanism*



**This is a five-week autumn course that will be conducted via Zoom.** Zoom details will be emailed to participants. The course is a reading group.

**The book: Jean-Paul Sartre, *Existentialism and Humanism*.** This short classic began as a lecture of 1945. It is readable; it popularises the ideas of Sartre's much larger and much more difficult *Being and Nothingness* (and that latter tome was written, allegedly, with the help of amphetamines – and one can believe it).

***Existentialism and Humanism* is about** freedom, value, human nature, and authenticity. It declares, famously, that, 'Man is nothing else but that which he makes of himself', that 'existence precedes essence' and that we are condemned to be free.

**Editions.** I am familiar with various editions published by Methuen (and there is the French original, published initially by Les Editions Nagel and then, I think, by Editions Gallimard). I have a 2007 Methuen edition and also a seemingly older edition that does not bother to say when it was published but which seems to be from 1973 (and which, compared to the 2007 edition, has smaller type and lacks an introduction). I have not managed to determine whether the edition currently available (first-hand) differs from the 2007 one. The ISBN for the 2007 (paperback) edition that I have is 978-0-413-776395-6. The Methuen website advertises a (paperback) edition with ISBN 978-0-413-776396. If those two *are* different editions, then either should be fine. So: *get any recent Methuen edition* (and, at a pinch, get *any* Methuen edition, or use a French edition if you read French).

**Our first week** will treat the introduction by Philip Mairet; and in that first session I myself will introduce Sartre and to the book. The book is short; we will be reading, only, some twenty pages per week. This will allow us to read those pages carefully!

Useful secondary texts (for the keen!) include: Bernasconi, *How to Read Sartre*; Murdoch, *Sartre*; Morris, *Sartre*; Cerbone, *Understanding Phenomenology*, ch. 3.

TUTOR            Dr Nicholas Joll.

DATES            *January 28<sup>th</sup> – February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021.* (Five sessions.)

DAY & TIME    *Thursdays, 2–4pm* (with a break in the middle of each session).

FORMAT          Zoom.

COST             £27 (twenty-seven pounds), payable to the Institute. Payment is by posted cheque or by Shopify; cheques are preferred.