

Final Paper
Due: August 10, 2024

Please reflect on the following prompt, and write a paper in response:

Using any three of the authors we've read over the course of this semester, as well as your own thoughts on the matter, answer the question: Does life have meaning? If so, can we say what it is?

The authors we've read this semester are:

- Søren Kierkegaard
- Friedrich Nietzsche
- Fyodor Dostoevsky
- Miguel de Unamuno
- Jean-Paul Sartre
- Simone de Beauvoir
- Albert Camus
- Ralph Ellison

The goal of this paper is to present your own considered and clearly articulated beliefs alongside your understanding of the philosophical material we have read in the course. To that end, please be sure it is always clear whose views are being expressed—yours or one of the authors whose works are included in our textbook. Be sure to address yourself not only to an answer to the question, but also to providing your reader with an account of why you believe your answer to be correct. What are your reasons for taking one position or another? On what basis do you say the things you say about the readings? In order to justify the claims in your paper to your reader, when discussing material from the textbook **you must offer substantiation for your claims with quotations from the text. Quotations are absolutely required; papers that do not use direct quotations to support the claims they make about the readings in the textbook will receive a failing grade. Papers that quote only from one or two of the three thinkers discussed in the paper cannot receive a grade higher than C.**

Please do not consult any sources or resources other than our textbook. (This includes the scholarly introductions to each thinker and the footnotes in each chapter by the textbook's editor, as well as anything written by me in the daily lessons.) Any paper that quotes from any other source will receive a substantial grade penalty; any paper which can be shown to be reliant upon any other source without citation will receive a failing grade and its author will be subject to the appropriate disciplinary procedures, detailed in the [UHD Academic Honesty Policy](#) (or in the [UHD Student Handbook](#)).

The paper should be 4-5 pages long, typed and double-spaced. Use an 11- or 12-point font with reasonable margins. Citations should be in either the MLA or Chicago Manual of Style formats (information on both of which is available on the UHD Library website, under the heading, "[Citing Sources](#)"), and as such must give full bibliographical information for the text in either a "works cited" (MLA) or bibliographical footnotes (Chicago). Quotations should be set off from the rest of the paper (typically by quotation marks), and you should cite the page numbers in the text where the quoted passage appears. **The paper is worth 20% of your grade for the course, and is to be submitted online via Canvas by 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, August 10.** Late papers will not be accepted unless you have arranged an extension with me before the stated due date and time.

Although I will not read drafts, if at any point in the writing or revising of this paper you have questions as to what you should or should not do, please ask me. The more in advance of the due date you ask your questions, the more use my answers will be to you. This is especially pertinent regarding matters of academic integrity and plagiarism. Plagiarists will be dealt with as harshly as is possible, and so, if you remain unsure as to what constitutes plagiarism in this course, you are strongly encouraged to consult with me.