

**POLITICS OF IDENTITY:  
*Cultural Theories of Freedom and Power*  
IDS 213WR, Section 1  
EMORY UNIVERSITY  
SPRING 2009**

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Instructor: Betty Woodman  
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Class Hours: MWF 10:40-11:30 a.m.  
Office hours by appointment

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The various sections of IDS 213 address interdisciplinary academic perspectives concerning identity, including formative, social, and cultural influences on the development of identity. This section of IDS 213, “Cultural Theories of Freedom and Power,” draws on existentialist theory to frame a philosophical discussion of identity, considering psychological, sociological, critical theorist, and political perspectives. The course will examine the development of individual and group identities, exploring the tension between identity and existentialist views of freedom, responsibility, choice, and power, perceptions of self and Other, and the influence of social, cultural, historical, and experiential factors shaping identity. In particular, the curriculum will devote attention to social pressures associated with the suppression of freedom, emotion, creativity, and original thought and their relations to individual and cultural “blindness” underpinning the emergence of authoritarian and conforming behavior. IDS213 fulfills Emory’s second level writing requirement.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Class Participation:**

This course will involve extensive class discussions on the readings for each class. Reading the assignments carefully will prepare you to contribute to, learn from, and appreciate the class discussion and make the most of this class. Insights following from thoughtful reading of the texts will enhance the quality of our discussion. Class participation, including occasional in-class written responses based on readings for that day, will account for 25% of your final grade.

**Mini Papers:**

Five, one-page papers (double-spaced) will be due throughout the semester, reflecting revisions of in-class writing assignments. These papers will be graded solely on grammar and punctuation (3% each).

**Short Papers:**

Two, four-page papers (double spaced) summarizing class readings and addressing an aspect of interest to you will be due the day the readings will be discussed. On these days, you will lead a discussion based on your paper (10% each).

**Final Paper:**

A one-page abstract of your final paper topic is due on April 10<sup>th</sup>. The abstract will introduce your thesis, outline the intended scope of your paper, and summarize the materials you will use to support your thesis. The final paper will be based on the topics and readings from the class, although additional research and sources may strengthen your paper. A six-page draft of your paper is due April 17<sup>th</sup> (10%). The final paper (ten pages, double-spaced) will be due on May 1<sup>st</sup> (25%).

**Play:**

During the final weeks of class, we will develop a play, drawing on the readings and topics of the class, and reflecting the views and contributions of the scholars we have studied.

**Attendance:**

After three absences, your grade will be affected. If you have an illness or a family emergency that prevents you from attending class, please contact me as soon as possible.

**Grading:**

Class Participation:	30%
Mini-Papers (3% ea):	15%
Short Papers (10% ea):	20%
Final Paper Abstract and Draft:	10%
Final Paper:	<u>25%</u>
	100%

**COURSE TEXTS & READINGS****Texts, available in the bookstore:**

- Sartre, Jean-Paul, *Anti-Semite and Jew*. Translated by George J. Becker and with a preface by Michael Walzer. New York: Schocken Books, Inc., 1995.
- Miller, Alice, *For Your Own Good*. With a new preface by the author. New York: The Noonday Press, 1990.
- Sophocles, *Antigone*. Translated, with Introduction and Notes, by Paul Woodruff. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, Inc., 2001.
- Lamott, Anne. *Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life*. New York: Anchor Books, 1995.

**Readings, available on Reserves Direct:**

- Charles Guignon & Derk Pereboom, eds, *Existentialism: Basic Writings*. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, Inc., 1995.  
Introduction, xiii–xxxviii; Nietzsche, 85-110; *The Gay Science* excerpts, 115-143; Sartre, 247–267; “Humanism of Existentialism,” 268-286.
- Robert Solomon, “Pessimism vs. Existentialism,” *The Chronicle Review* from the issue of *The Chronicle of Higher Education* dated January 26, 2007.
- Ethan Watters, “DNA is not Destiny: The New Science of Epigenetics Rewrites the Rules of Disease, Heredity, and Identity,” *DISCOVER* magazine, November 2006. 33-37, 75.
- Jean-Paul Sartre, *Being and Nothingness*. Translated and with an introduction by Hazel E. Barnes. New York: Washington Square Press, 1984.

- “In-Itself and For-Itself,” 785–798; “Bad Faith,” 86-89, 96-106,114;  
 “The Look,” 340–349; “Concrete Relations with Others,” 471–476, 480-483, 488,  
 491-495, 497-499, 511-512, 517-519.
- R. W. Connell, “Psychoanalysis on Masculinity,” *Theorizing Masculinities*. Edited by Harry  
 Brod & Michael Kaufman. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage Publications, Inc., 1994,  
 11-35.
- William Pollack, *Real Boys*. New York: Random House, 1998. xix–64; 206-229.
- Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*. New York: Vintage Books, 1989.  
 Introductions, vii–xxxvi; “Myth,” 253; “Childhood, 267-272, 286-287, 295; “The  
 Young Girl, 328-336. *Optional: Sexual Initiation, 371-373, 398-403.*
- Mary Pipher, *Reviving Ophelia*. New York: Ballantine Books, 1994.  
 Chapter 1, 17-28; *Optional: Sex and Violence, 203-231.*
- Audre Lorde, *Sister Outsider*. Freedom, CA: Crossing Press, 1984.  
 “Uses of the Erotic: The Erotic as Power,” 53–59.
- Pierre Bourdieu, *Masculine Domination*. Stanford: Stanford University Press,  
 2001. vii-15, 22-31, 47-53
- McNicoll, Stephanie. “Chimpanzees can Transmit Cultural Behavior to Multiple  
 Generations,” *Innovations Report*, August 31, 2006.
- Barbara Ehrenreich, *Nickel and Dimed*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2001.  
 Introduction, 1–10; “Serving in Florida,” 11–49.
- Peggy McIntosh, “White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack.”  
 (Available on the Internet.)
- Cornel West, *Race Matters*. New York: Vintage Books, 1994. Preface, xiii-xvi; Introduction,  
 3-13; Epilogues, 155-159.
- Zygmunt Bauman and Tim May, *Thinking Sociologically*. Malden, Massachusetts:  
 Blackwell Publishers, Inc., 2001.  
 “Action, Identity and Understanding in Everyday Life,” 17-42;  
 “State, Nations and Nationalism,” 133-146.
- Erich Fromm, *Escape from Freedom*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1994.  
 “Freedom – A Psychological Problem?” 1-21;  
 “The Emergence of the Individual and the Ambiguity of Freedom,” 23-38;  
 “Freedom and Democracy,” 239-274; “Character and the Social Process,” 275-296.
- Max Horkheimer and Theodor Adorno, *Dialectic of Enlightenment*. New York:  
 Continuum, 2002.  
 “The Culture Industry: Enlightenment as Mass Deception,” 120–167.
- T.W. Adorno, Else Frenkel-Brunswick, Daniel J. Levinson, R. Nevitt Sanford, *The  
 Authoritarian Personality*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1993.  
 Preface to the Abridged Edition, v–vi; Preface, xi–xiv;  
 Introduction, 1–11; Ch VIII, 256-266; Conclusions, 475–480.
- Iris Young, *Inclusion and Democracy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002.  
 “Social Difference as a Political Resource,” 81–99.  
 “Social Groups and Personal Identity,” 99–120.

### **FILMS** (in class)

“The Existentialist” (clip); I Heart Huckabees; “Waking Life” (clips); “Meet the Parents”  
 (clip); “The Corporation”(clip); Mississippi Masala (clip); “Merchants of Cool” (clip);  
 Princeton PEAR consciousness DVD.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

W 1/13: Introduction of Course and Review of Syllabus

### *Identity through the Lens of Existentialist Theory*

F 1/16: *Existentialism: Basic Writings*. Intro, xiii-xxxviii (*Reserves Direct*)  
Robert Solomon, "Pessimism vs. Existentialism" (*Reserves Direct*)  
(*"The Existentialist"* clip)

M 1/19: MLK Holiday. No Class

W 1/21: Nietzsche, 85-110; "The Gay Science" excerpts, 115-143 (*Reserves Direct*)  
*Choose Short Paper Readings (2)*. (*"Waking Life"* clip)

F 1/23: Sartre, 247-267 (*Reserves Direct*)  
"The Humanism of Existentialism," 268-286. (*Reserves Direct*)  
(*Princeton Consciousness* clip)

M 1/26: *Bird by Bird*, xi-xxxix; 3-32.  
Myers- Briggs Discussion.  
Ethan Watters, "DNA is not Destiny" (*Reserves Direct*)

W 1/28: *Bird by Bird*, 32-43; 80-109.  
Myers-Briggs Discussion.  
[Myers-Briggs test: <http://humanmetrics.com/cgi-win/JTypes2.asp>]

### *"Bad Faith," Freedom, and Power*

F 1/30: Sartre, *Being and Nothingness*  
"In-itself and For-Itself," 785-798 (*Reserves Direct*)  
(*"Waking Life"* clip)

M 2/2: Sartre, "Bad Faith," 86-89, 96-106, 114 (*Reserves Direct*)  
"The Look," 340-349 (*Reserves Direct*)  
(*"I Heart Huckabees"* clip: *"How Am I Not Myself?"*)

W 2/4: Sartre, "Concrete Relations with Others" (Sadism/Mas, Oppression/Resignation),  
471-476, 480-483, 488, 491-499, 511-512, 517-519 (*Reserves Direct*)  
(*"I Heart Huckabees"* clip; *"Meet the Parents"* clip)

F 2/6: **Identity Formation**  
Sartre, *Anti-Semite and Jew*. Preface (opt); 7-54.

M 2/9: *Anti-Semite and Jew*, 59-109.

W 2/11: **Child Development**  
Miller, *For Your Own Good*, Prefaces, "Poisonous Pedagogy," vii-63.  
(*"I Heart Huckabees"* clip)

F 2/13: Miller, "'Sacred' Values of Child-Rearing," 63-102.

M 2/16: Miller, "War of Annihilation Against the Self," 105-141.

W 2/18: Miller, "Hitler's Childhood," 142-197.

F 2/20: Miller, "Concluding Comments," 240-243; "Permission to Know," 271-275.  
Pollack, *Real Boys*, xix-xxiv; 3-19.

### ***Social Pressures Encouraging “Bad Faith”***

- M 2/23: **Gender Socialization**  
Pollack, *Real Boys*, 20–64 (*Reserves Direct*)
- W 2/25: Pipher, *Reviving Ophelia*, 17-28 (*Reserves Direct*)  
Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*. Skim Intros, xiii–xlii (*RD*).
- F 2/27: Beauvoir, “Myth,” 253; “Childhood,” 267-272, 286-287, 295; “The Young Girl,” 328–336 (*Reserves Direct*)
- M 3/2: **Sexuality**  
Audre Lorde, “Uses of the Erotic,” 53–59 (*Reserves Direct*)  
**Class:** Ehrenreich, *Nickel and Dimed*. Intro, 1-10; “Serving in Florida,” 11-49 (*RD*)
- W 3/4: **Race**  
Peggy McIntosh, “White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack.” (*Internet*)  
Cornell West, *Race Matters*, Preface, xiii-xvi, Intro, 3-13, Epilogues, 155-159 (*RD*).
- F 3/6: **Social Groups:** Bauman: “Action, Identity and Understanding,” 17-42 (*RD*)
- M 3/9 - F 3/13: *Spring Break, No Class.*
- M 3/16: **Replication of Social Systems**  
McNicoll, “Chimpanzees can Transmit Cultural Behavior to Multiple Generations”  
Bourdieu, *Masculine Domination*, vii-15, 22-31, 47-53 (*Reserves Direct*).  
(“*The Corporation*” clips)

### ***Critical Theory & Relevance of Emotion***

- W 3/18: Adorno, et al, *Authoritarian Personality*. Preface to Abridged Edition, v-vi; Preface, xi-xiv; Introduction, 1-11; Ch 8, 256-266, Conclusions, 475-480 (*Reserves Direct*).  
Connell, “Psychoanalysis on Masculinity,” 17-19; 27-35 (*Reserves Direct*).
- F 3/20: Fromm, *Escape from Freedom*. “Freedom- Psychological?” 1-23; “Emergence of the Individual,” 23-38 (*Reserves Direct*).
- M 3/23: Fromm, “Freedom & Democracy,” 239-274.
- W 3/25: Horkheimer & Adorno, *Dialectic of Enlightenment*. “The Culture Industry,” 120-144 (*Reserves Direct*). (“*Merchants of Cool*” clips)
- F 3/27: Horkheimer & Adorno: “The Culture Industry,” 144-167 (*Reserves Direct*).

### ***Social, Political, & National Considerations***

- M 3/30: Sophocles, *Antigone*. Intro vii–xxvii; 1-34.
- W 4/1: Sophocles. Third Stasimon, 35-58; Hegel, 63-65.  
Discussion of paper topics
- F 4/3: Young, *Inclusion and Democracy*. “Social Difference as a Political Resource,” 81–99 (*Reserves Direct*).
- M 4/6: Young, “Social Groups and Personal Identity,” 99–120 (*Reserves Direct*).
- W 4/8: Bauman: “State and Nation,” 133-46 (*Reserves Direct*). (*Mississippi Masala* clips)

### *Writing*

- F 4/10: *Bird by Bird*, 110-150. Film (IHH)  
ABSTRACT DUE  
Discussion of Abstracts/ Paper Topics.
- M 4/13: *Bird by Bird*, 162-182; 195-207; 225-237. Film (IHH)  
In-class writing exercises. Discussion of Play Themes.
- W 4/15: Film Conclusion (I Heart Huckabees)
- F 4/17: PAPER DRAFT DUE  
Discussion of Class Themes and “I Heart Huckabees.” Play Development.
- M 4/20: Princeton Consciousness DVD. Play Development.
- W 4/22: “The Look of the Other” due. Class Discussion of Paper Topics. Play Development.
- F 4/24: Class Discussion of Paper Topics. Play Development
- M 4/27: Last Class:  
Wrap-up. “The Look of the Other.”  
The Play.  
Course Evaluations.
- F 5/1: FINAL PAPER DUE