

Dr. Roberta Raymond  
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The Self and Society  
3522 CC 10.09 EM6

Critical examination of issues of the self and society in works by such authors as Durrenmat, Nietzsche, Dostoevsky, Sartre, Derrida, Ricoeur. Particular attention is given to understanding how individuals' emotional and psychological well-being throughout their life course is affected by both their social surroundings and their efforts to cope with these circumstances. Topics include reflections on the self and personal integrity, justice, responsibility and alienation.

**Weeks 2-4: Reflections on the Self & Personal Integrity**  
Nietzsche, *Zarathustra*, Prologue and Part I  
Gide, *The Immoralist*

**Weeks 5-9: Justice & Responsibility**  
Dostoevsky, *Crime and Punishment*  
Durrenmat, *The Visit*  
Lahiri, *The Namesake*

**Weeks 10-14: Alienation**  
Dostoevsky, *Notes from the Underground*  
Sartre, *Nausea* & Existentialism and Human Emotions (page 1-33)  
Zamyatin, *We*

### Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Develop a basis for evaluating texts in terms of the individual's relationship to society
2. Examine how individuals are influenced by societal forces and how persons construct their interaction in everyday life
3. Provide students with the theoretical and substantive insights necessary to think systematically about the interrelationships between the "self" and "society"
4. Reflect on different types of individuals and life experiences
5. Think in a methodical and reflective manner through textual interpretation
6. To apply the content of this course to the student's main area of study
7. Write an analytical essay, based upon formal research, within the lexicon of Literary Theory and the Humanities

Appointments upon request. Please forward an e-mail requesting an appointment with lecturer.

Course Grade will be based upon:

Class participation:	10%
Response paper(s) (2, 4, 5, 6)	20%
Mid-Term Exam (essay & presentation):1,3,4,6,7	30%
Final Exam (in-class):	40%

### Brooklyn College Policy

The faculty and administration of Brooklyn College support an environment free from cheating and plagiarism. Each student is responsible for being aware of what constitutes cheating and plagiarism and for avoiding both. The complete text of the CUNY Academic Integrity Policy and the Brooklyn College procedure for implementing that policy can be found at this site: <http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/bc/policies>. If a faculty member suspects a violation of academic integrity and, upon investigation, confirms that violation, or if the student admits the violation, the faculty member **MUST** report the violation.