

Instructions: Answer each of the following questions in a short essay (one or two paragraphs). Be sure to be clear and careful in your writing. Your entire exam should be about three pages. The exams are due **in class** on **Friday, May 8**.

- 1) What does Sartre mean by "bad faith"? Why is the woman on the first date in bad faith? Why is the café waiter in bad faith? Why is sincerity itself often a form of bad faith?
- 2) In *Existentialism is a Humanism*, Sartre says that existence precedes essence. What does this mean? How does it relate to Roquentin's experience of nausea?
- 3) Describe Merleau-Ponty's conception of freedom in his essay, *Freedom*. How does he disagree with Sartre? How can he say that our freedom is absolute, when our actions are limited by our circumstances and personality?
- 4) According to Nagel, what makes life absurd? What is the proper response to the absurdity of life? How does this differ from Camus' idea about the proper response to absurdity? Which response do you think is better, and why?