

UNIVERSITÉ SAINT-PAUL

FACULTÉ DE PHILOSOPHIE



SAINT PAUL UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY

223 MAIN OTTAWA ON CANADA K1S 1C4

TEL: 613-236-1393 FAX: 613-782-3005

WWW.USTPAUL.CA

# PHI 2182

## THE HUMAN EXISTENCE

Session: Winter 2010

Professor: R. Jahae

Day & Time Thursday, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Room **XXX** 613-236-1393; Extension: 2452. E-Mail: [rjahae@ustpaul.ca](mailto:rjahae@ustpaul.ca)

OFFICE: ROOM 305, LAFRAMBOISE HALL

OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday 10:00-12:00 a.m.

*(OR BY APPOINTMENT)*

### Course Description

The course is an introduction into “philosophical anthropology”. 1) The introduction explains philosophical anthropology as an effort to discover the essence of the human being, and spells out the discipline’s relationships with biological and cultural anthropology. 2) Four fundamental dimensions of the human existence are explained: language, sociality, temporality and historicity, and corporality. 3) The so-called spiritual capacities of the human being – knowledge and the free will – are explained. In this context, the traditional philosophical problem of the relationship between body and soul will be addressed. 4) The question of the sense of the human existence will be given special attention.

### Objectives

1) Understanding what philosophical anthropology is. 2) Developing an awareness of the problem of continuity and discontinuity between human beings and animals. 3) Understanding the primordial importance of language, social embeddings, and historicity for the identity of the individual. 4) Understanding the special meaning of the proper body within the universe of material things. 5) Understanding the meaning of terms like “spiritual” and “soul” in relation to “material” and “body”.

## Texts

G. Haeffner, *The Human Situation: A Philosophical Anthropology*. Notre Dame, 1989.

## Grading

There will be two written tests during the semester. Each of them will count for 30 % of the final note.

The final test will be written and count for 40 % of the final note.

NB: Failure to follow essay documentary guidelines entails a penalty of 10%.