The “perennial problems” of philosophy are what they are because of philosophy’s perennial abstractions. Such “problems” as Mind/Body, Consciousness/World, Subject/Object, and Self/Other cannot be resolved so long as philosophy begins with the abstractions Mind/Body, Consciousness/World, Subject/Object, and Self/Other. The unity of Truth and Being will never be found by adding together abstractions.

Though hardly a unified discipline, Existentialism is characterized by a rejection of all those philosophical abstractions in favor of concrete lived experience. Neither a mind nor a brain engages a world, but total unified embodied conscious human beings do. If a unity of Truth and Being is to be found, it is to be found in our concrete existence, and never can it be attained after the fact by an assembly of disparate bits.

In addition to being a philosophical overthrow of philosophy, Existentialism is also a philosophical overthrow of all abstract values. No political commitment, no moral principle, no spiritual commitments, and no scientific law can outrun the scathing critiques of Existentialism. This must be the case, for it is in the concrete lived experience that we find what is most real and authentic about all values.

Texts Include
Friedrich Nietzsche, Beyond Good and Evil (Penguin Classics) ISBN: 014044923X
Martin Heidegger, Basic Writings (Harper Perennial Modern Classics) ISBN 978-0061627019
Maurice Merleau-Ponty: Basic Writings Thomas Baldwin, ed. (Routledge) ISBN: 978-0415315876
Plus readings and texts from Jean-Paul Sartre, Soren Kierkegaard, Albert Camus, and others

YOU MUST BE WILLING
TO ABANDON ALL CERTAINTIES,
BECAUSE FOR THE EXISTENTIALIST
EVEN THE EARTH DOES NOT MOVE.