Existentialism **Existential Nihilism** & Difficult to define. Life has no intrinsic meaning or value. since many of those who have been defined as Existentialist There is no order in life except have denied the assignation. what we give it. All social rules are the arbitrary invention of man and have Obsessed with how to live one's life and no other origin. believe that philosophical and psychological inquiry can help. Nothingness is the source of absolute freedom as well as existential horror and emotional anguish. Believe that there are certain questions that everyone must deal with (if they are to take life Life is, according to Camus, an "eternal useless seriously) such as the value of human existence. struggle", which creates an absurd situation. the meaning of value, the place of self-Nihilists continue to live even though living reflective conscious knowledge, if there is a holds no purpose or value. plan, if there is a God his place in human existence, etc. Has been called the greatest crisis in humanity Free will, the human power to do or not to do, is since it holds no meaning in the cherished and sacrosanct beliefs and truths of society. Many considered absolutely obvious and is essential Philosophers understand that Western to the philosophic landscape of Existentialism. Civilization is already in advanced stages of decay due to the prevalence of forms of Human knowledge is understood to be limited Nihilism: those who shatter ideals; those who and fallible, which means that each action is a watch ideals crumble before them; and risk of some sort since it can affect the whole those who withdraw from their presence world. into himself. Every action is considered of any *Nihilism has also been identified with a weight is considered a moral Russian revolutionary movement decision. By one's acts one (1860-1917), which why Nihilism

from "Nihilism" by Alan Pratt

from "What is Existentialism" by Bob Corbett

begins to define and

create the self.

Various definitions of each appear on the reverse

is often associated with anarchy

and extremism.

Nihilism

from The Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary

1 a: a viewpoint that traditional values and beliefs are unfounded and that existence is senseless and useless b: a doctrine that denies any objective ground of truth and especially of moral truths

from Dictionary.com Unabridged; based on the Random House Dictionary

Philosophy.

- a. an extreme form of skepticism: the denial of all real existence or the possibility of an objective basis for truth.
- b. nothingness or nonexistence.

from The American Heritage New Dictionary of Cultural Literacy

An approach to philosophy that holds that human life is meaningless and that all religions, laws, moral codes, and political systems are thoroughly empty and false. The term is from the Latin *nihil*, meaning "nothing."

from The American Heritage College Dictionary:

A doctrine holding that all values are baseless and that nothing can be known or communicated.

adapted from The Philosophy Dictionary at ImportanceofPhilosophy.com

Nihilism holds that meaning and value do not exist.

Existentialism

from The Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary

a chiefly 20th century philosophical movement embracing diverse doctrines but centering on analysis of individual existence in an unfathomable universe and the plight of the individual who must assume ultimate responsibility for acts of free will without any certain knowledge of what is right or wrong or good or bad

adapted from The American Heritage New Dictionary of Cultural Literacy

Existentialism stresses that people are entirely free and therefore responsible for what they make of themselves. With this responsibility comes a profound anguish or dread.

from The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language

A philosophy that emphasizes the uniqueness and isolation of the individual experience in a hostile or indifferent universe, regards human existence as unexplainable, and stresses freedom of choice and responsibility for the consequences of one's acts.

from The American Heritage College Dictionary:

A philosophy that emphasizes the uniqueness and isolation of the individual in a hostile or indifferent universe, regards existence as unexplainable, and stresses free choice and responsibility for one's actions.

adapted from The Philosophy Dictionary at ImportanceofPhilosophy.com

Existentialism holds that there is no intrinsic meaning or purpose, therefore it is up to each individual to determine his own meaning and purpose and take responsibility for his actions. Views the world as "absurd".