

TITLE OF DISSERTATION

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## DEDICATION

A dedication is a statement from the author to a person or group of people the author wishes to honor. Dedications are usually brief, and often begin with “To. . .”

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The acknowledgements statement includes gestures of gratitude and recognition toward the people who aided the author in the completion of the dissertation.

## ABSTRACT

The abstract is a succinct statement of the significant contents of the manuscript and the value and relevance of the study. The abstract should inform the reader of the purpose, structure, and conclusions of the article or manuscript. Generally, it should be no longer than 350 words.

## PREFACE

The preface includes the author's reasons for undertaking the dissertation. Other personal comments that are not relevant in any other section may be added to the preface.

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## LIST OF SYMBOLS

- $J$  Resultant total angular momentum quantum number, excluding nuclear spins.
- $N$  Rotational angular momentum quantum number, excluding electron and nuclear spins, in the case where electron spin is present.
- $K$  Projection of  $J$  (or  $N$ ) on the symmetry axis in the limiting prolate or oblate symmetric top.
- $F_1$  Resultant angular momentum quantum number including nuclear spin for one nucleus.
- $F$  Resultant total angular momentum quantum number.
- $\lambda$  or  $\epsilon$  Quantum number employed when  $F_1$  is not a good quantum number. This value simply numbers the levels from lowest to highest energy for the same  $F$  quantum number.

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AC	Active Case Detection
ACR	Adequate Clinical Response
CDRI	Central Drug Research Institute
ETF	Early Treatment Failure
IRS	Indoor Residual Spraying
LTF	Late Treatment Failure
MDR	Multidrug Resistance

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

In August 2006, then-White House Press Secretary Tony Snow revealed that President George W. Bush had been reading Albert Camus' famous novel, *The Stranger*, while vacationing at his ranch in Crawford, Texas. When asked to comment, Snow said that President Bush "found it an interesting book and a quick read" and that he and the President had discussed its meaning. "I don't want to go too deep into it," Snow explained, "but we discussed the origins of existentialism" (Dickerson 2006).

Satirists seized upon the otherwise trivial news item for its offerings of political humor. Lee Siegel blended Bush's no-nonsense rhetoric with the terse 'American' style Camus used to fashion the memorable voice of Meursault, fusing the two figures together in his *New Republic* article entitled "Strangerer" (Siegel 2006), while writers with more of a political axe to grind reveled in the ironic contrast between Bush's and Camus' positions on just about everything, from religious faith to the use of military force to capital punishment. One might be surprised that sharper contrasts were not drawn between the President who dubbed himself 'the decider' and Camus' Meursault, who decides next to nothing. The closest anyone came to making such a comparison was apparently in the vague suggestion floating around the Press Room that the President was going through an 'existential' foreign-policy crisis. Tony Snow reportedly (and

somewhat tastelessly) rebuffed this suggestion by insisting that “he [the President] doesn’t feel like an existentialist trapped in Algeria during the unpleasantness” (Dowd 2006).

A few writers who were familiar with Camus’ work understood that the greatest irony of all was the discomfiting parallel between the racial and colonial violence between the lines of *The Stranger* and America’s questionable and controversial war in Iraq. While not all were familiar with Conor Cruise O’Brien’s or Edward Said’s scathing critiques of Camus’ colonialism, John Dickerson understood that Bush’s taking-up of the novel was ripe for “geopolitical literary misinterpretation” (2006). Half-sarcastically concerned that a Camus-Bush connection would be misunderstood in the Middle East and around the world, Dickerson proclaimed it to be “the first time that national security demand[ed] an official version of literary criticism” (2006).

Putting aside concerns about national security and international perception for a moment, it is curious that this otherwise insignificant Presidential tidbit aroused so much fascination. The rest of the President’s summer reading list, which reportedly included a study of Robert Oppenheimer and a biography of Abraham Lincoln (meaning the President was reading about absurdity, atomic weapons, and a divided nation all at once), made less of a media splash (Gopnik 2006). A few critics were offended by what they saw as a misguided attempt by the White House to bolster Bush’s image as an intellectual, but I think the fascination that the story sparked within the country was profound and enlightening in terms of people’s interest in the more mundane facets of the president’s personal life instead of his actual efforts on the geopolitical front.

## CHAPTER 2

### A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE ABSURD

Our present confusion about the absurd results not only from a lack of attention to Camus' theoretical contribution, to which all but one of the following chapters of this work are addressed, but from the many competing philosophical understandings of absurdity, which I review here. In ordinary language, we use the word 'absurd' interchangeably with 'incongruent', 'irrational', 'senseless', and 'ridiculous', but these synonyms stand in an unclear and uncomfortable relation to the philosophical meanings of the term. In fact, in standard dictionaries, 'absurd' is often given two or more separate meanings. The first is generally that which is "utterly or obviously senseless, illogical, or untrue... laughably foolish or false," while the second is "the quality or condition of existing in a meaningless or irrational world" (Random House Webster's College Dictionary 1991). This humorous double-sense of 'absurd' suggests that even the word may be charged with a kind of ambivalence, a tension between comedy and tragedy, laughter and despair.

The word 'absurd' is actually derived from the Latin *absurdus*, which means "out of harmony," what is unharmonious to the ear (see Esslin 2001, 23), but its likely root is not *surd*, meaning 'deaf', but *svar*, meaning 'tune' or 'sound' (Halsey 1882, 151). While this chapter refers to Camus' work, its goal is to briefly treat other absurd theorists in order to highlight key themes and debates within the development of absurd thought and to give the reader a sense of the various interpretations of absurdity, which are perhaps as

# Figure 2.1

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discordant as the etymology of the term implies. Because the absurd remains such a muddled concept, attempts to trace its heritage have had only the most limited success. To give but one example, John Cruickshank sees in Camus' absurd "a contemporary manifestation of a scepticism as old at least as the Book of Ecclesiastes" (Cruickshank 1960, 44). But Cruickshank's equation of both Ecclesiastes and absurdity with skepticism seems strangely shortsighted for such a thoughtful critic. Most studies have focused, instead, on the absurdity inherent in Qohelet's key word, *hebel*, translated often as 'vanity', but which literally denotes 'breath', 'breeze', or 'vapor' (see Fox 1989, 29; Fredericks 1993, 12n; Dor-Shav 2004; Berger 2001). These studies have argued that the sense of the term, and of that key phrase which so often follows it, *reut-ruah*, or 'chasing after wind' (Jastrow 1919, 204n), are not far from the contemporary notion of absurdity. Unfortunately, very few of these studies have been clear about what that contemporary notion of absurdity entails.

## 2.1 SUB-SECTION

Michael Fox's study of Ecclesiastes specifically unites Qohelet's words with Camus' absurd philosophy and makes a detailed argument for the relationship between the two. "The best translation-equivalent for *hebel* in Qohelet's usage," says Fox, "is 'absurdity', understood in a sense and with connotations close to those given the concept in Albert Camus's classic description of the absurd, *The Myth of Sisyphus*" (1989, 31).

## 2.2 SUB-SECTION

What is lacking in Fox's account of this relationship, however, is a thorough examination of the concept of the absurd, itself.



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## APPENDIX A

### FOCUS GROUP QUESTIONS

The following list of questions was used as an outline for the focus group questions.

Where appropriate, the interviewees were asked to expand upon their answers.

1. How do dual enrollment programs help students?
2. How do dual enrollment programs hurt students?
3. How do you feel about the “college for all” model?
4. How do you see the dual enrollment program with the Advanced Skill Center impacting a student’s choices after they graduate?
5. How have local educational institutions changed their delivery of programs and services to meet the needs of middle achieving students?
6. How will a successful dual enrollment experience impact middle or underachieving students?
7. In your judgment, what are the requirements that should be placed on students who want to take dual enrollment courses?
8. In your opinion, what motivates a middle or underachieving student’s decision to attend post-secondary education?
9. In your opinion, why would a student not participate in a dual enrollment program?
10. What is the connection between middle or under achieving students participating in a dual enrollment program and their desire to attend post-secondary education?