

PHILOSOPHY 314
19th Century Philosophy: Nietzsche in Context

PHIL 314
SPRING 2018
Tues., Wed., Fri.: 11:30-12:20
Clearihue A308

Instructor: Nina Belmonte
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Course Objectives

A founding figure of our intellectual epoch, Nietzsche's influence on subsequent thought and culture cannot be overstated. He wrote "in blood" - his language artful, excessive and notoriously opaque. How are to understand him, then?

In this course we will explore Nietzsche's work in the context of the philosophy of the 19th Century, from his roots in Shopenhauer and Emerson, and his disdain for socialist movements to the conception and development of his extraordinary notions of the Will to Power, the Overman and Eternal Return, Genealogy, Art and Life. We will read his work carefully from *The Birth of Tragedy* and *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, through *Beyond Good and Evil* and *Genealogy of Morals* to *Ecce Homo*. We will delight in the enigmatic force of his language and endeavor to comprehend him on his own terms, as profoundly as possible.

Readings will undoubtedly be difficult and class attendance necessary. As with all great adventures, what you take away will depend on what you put in. Graded work will include homework questions, one in-class midterm, one short exegetical paper, and a final paper.

TEXTS: In the Bookstore: *Basic Writings of Nietzsche*, trans. Kaufmann,
Modern Library, 2000
[Includes: *Birth of Tragedy*, *Genealogy of Morals*,
Beyond Good and Evil & *Ecce Homo*.]

Thus Spoke Zarathustra, trans. Graham Parkes,
Oxford Univ. Press, 2008

Additional Material will be available online and on Reserve in the Library.

Assignments

Class Participation/Homework:	20%
Midterm Exam:	25%
Short Paper	25%
Final Term paper:	<u>30%</u>
	100%

Percentages will convert to a letter grade according to the following scheme:

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 65-69	D = 50-59
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 60-64	F = 0-49
A- = 80-84	B- = 70-72		

Description of Assignments

Class Participation/Homework:

I expect you not only to attend class, but to read the assignments on time. This is necessary for the sake of a high-quality course experience. To that end, there will be regular homework assignments based on the readings and due in class. Because these questions are intended to help you come to class prepared to engage in discussion, it will not be possible to make them up.

Take Home Midterm

There will be a take home midterm handed out on a Friday and due the next Tuesday consisting of short answer and essay questions. These will be evaluated on your understanding of the material, the quality of your thought and the clarity and presentation of your essay (including spelling, punctuation and grammar).

Exegetical paper(1000 Words):

There will be one short paper required for this course. This will be an exegetical writing, intended to improve skills of critical reading and concise composition, and to prepare you for your final essay. Paper topics will be given out one week before the due date, but you are always free to write on a topic of your own choice, so long as you speak with me *before the*

Schedule of Classes

Week One– Introduction

- January 3 Introductions, Explanations, Hesitations
 5 History and Hysterics
 Read: Domino, *Nietzsche's Syphilis* (review)

Week Two- Roots and Inspirations

- 9 Roots: Romantic Pessimism
 Read: Shopenhauer, "The World as Will" (CourseSpaces)
10 Roots: Pessimistic Romanticism
 Read: Shopenhauer (Cont.)
12 Inspiration
 Read: Emerson, "Self Reliance" (CourseSpaces)

Week Three– *Beginnings: The Birth of a Philosophy*

- 16 Apollo/Dionysus
 Read: Homer's Contest (CourseSpaces) and *Birth of Tragedy*, 1-4
17 Dionysian Artist
 Read: *Birth of Tragedy*, 5, 7
19 Philosophy and the Death of Tragedy
 Read: *Birth of Tragedy*, 12,13-15, 19

Week Four– *Untimely Meditations*

- 23 A New Voice
 Read: Nietzsche, "On Truth and Lies In the Extramoral Sense"
 (CourseSpaces)
24 Language as Metaphors
 Read: Truth and Lies, (Cont.)
26 The Goal
 Read: "Shopenhauer as Educator" (Excerpt, CourseSpaces)

Week Five - *A Book for Everyone and Nobody*

- 30 Camel, Lion, Child
 Read: *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, Part I (through Speech 1)
31 A New Gospel
 Read: *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, Speeches of Zarathustra: 3 (p27);
 7(p. 35), 9-12 (p.39-47), 15(p.51), 21(p.62)

February 2 Will to Power/Eternal Return
Read: *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, Part 2, Sect. 12 "On Self Overcoming" (p. 98-101); and Part III, Sects 13-16 (p. 188-203)

Week Six -- *A Philosophy of the Future*

6** Eternal Recurrence
Read: *Gay Science*, Sect. 340-342 (Excerpt, CourseSpaces)
****Midterm Due****

7 The Death of God
Read: *Gay Science*, Sect. 124-125 (Excerpt, CourseSpaces)

9 Sickness and Health
Read: *Gay Science*, Preface

Week Seven -- **READING BREAK**

February 12-16

Week Eight -- *Beyond Good & Evil*

20 Philosophers
Read: *Beyond Good & Evil*, Preface, Part One

21 Free Spirits
Read: *BG&E*, Part Two

23 "Natural" History
Read: *BG&E*, Part Five

Week Nine-- *Noble Virtues*

27 Scholars and Philosophers
Read: *BG&E*, Part 6

28 Virtues
Read: *BG&E*, Part Seven (thru Sect. 231)

March 2 Noble Virtues
Read: *BG&E*, Part Nine

Week Ten-- *Genealogy and Polemic*

6 The Good, the Bad, and the Evil
Read: *Genealogy of Morals*, Preface and First Essay

7 Noble Beasts
Read: *Genealogy of Morals*, First Essay

9 Crimes and Punishments
Read: *Genealogy of Morals*, Second Essay

Week Eleven- *Aesthetic Ideal*

- 13 Aesthetic Ideals
 Read: *Genealogy of Morals*, Third Essay
- 14 Rhetoric and Reversals
 Read: *Genealogy of Morals*, Third Essay
- 16** Questions and Answers
 Short Paper Due

Week Twelve-- *How One Becomes What One Is*

- 20 Why I am so Wise
 Read: *Ecce Homo*, Part I
- 21