

NIETZSCHE FOR OUR TIMES

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CSPT 500/600, POLI 533/633
Spring Semester, Tuesday, 16:30-19:20 (TEF 170)

Nietzsche is the premonitory horizon of the 21st century, the remorseless thinker whose writings represent the future, not the past, of contemporary politics, culture and society. To read Nietzsche, particularly *On the Genealogy of Morals*, *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, and *The Gay Science*, is to approach closely, in word and deed, the essence of current politics and society, certainly its palpable anger, nihilism, and fierce resentment but also the existential situation of solitary individuals today tensely living between courageous optimism and surges of pessimism. That the destiny of Nietzsche's thought still lies in the future, that he was the first of all the truly posthumous thinkers, is evidenced by the fact that the sign of Nietzsche remains the gathering point for many of the most important theoretical reflections of the 20th and 21st centuries, including the writings of Judith Butler, Wendy Brown, Gilles Deleuze, Peter Sloterdijk and Jean Baudrillard. *Nietzsche for our Times*, then, as an interdisciplinary graduate seminar in which the writings of Nietzsche will serve as a talisman for a form of 21st century thought that takes the fundamental measure of its politics, culture and society—the fully ambivalent future that is forecast by *The Gay Science*, overcome in *Zarathustra*, and experienced in *On the Genealogy of Morals*.

Faithful to the spirit of Nietzsche who always thought life under the sign of the artistic imagination, the interdisciplinary graduate seminar, *Nietzsche for our Times*, will be guided in its reflections by the indigenous artistic imaginary. Here, a series of important contemporary indigenous artists, including Jackson 2bears, Rebecca Belmore, Nadia Myre, Skawennati Tricia Fragnito, Jason Lewis, Cheryl L'hirondelle and Jeneen Frei Njootli, will be discussed as ways of understanding the politics of nihilism in relationship to questions of decolonization, dispossession and violence.

Readings: F. Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Power*, *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, *The Gay Science*

Supplementary Readings:

Judith Butler, *The Psychic Life of Power*
Wendy Brown, *States of Injury* (Selections)

Indigenous Artistic Imaginary:

Loft, Steven and Kerry Swanson, eds. *Coded Territories: Tracing Indigenous Pathways in New Media Art*. Calgary: University of Calgary Press, 2014.
PDF available online: <http://press.ucalgary.ca/books/9781552387061>

Nadia Myre

“The Scar Project.” <http://artmur.com/en/artists/nadia-myre/the-scar-project-2/>

McLaughlin, Bryne. “4 Questions for Sobey Winner Nadia Myre.” *Canadian Art*, December 12, 2014. <https://canadianart.ca/features/nadia-myre-qa/>.

Rebecca Belmore

Balzer, Samantha. “Beginning with the Body: Fleshy Politics in the Performance Art of Rebecca Belmore and Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha.” *Journal of Feminist Scholarship* 6 (2014): 47–58.

Bear Robe, Amber-Dawn. “Rebecca Belmore’s Performance of Photography.” *Aboriginal Curatorial Collective*.
<http://www.aboriginalcuratorialcollective.org/features/bearrobe.html>.

Moser, Gabrielle. “Rebecca Belmore: Rising to the Occasion.” *Canadian Art*, July 24, 2008. <http://canadianart.ca/reviews/rebecca-belmore/>.