PHILOSOPHY 314
19th Century Philosophy: Nietzsche in Context

PHIL 314
SPRING 2018
Instructor: Nina Belmonte
Office: Clearihue 318
Office Hours: Tues: 1:30-2:30
Thursday: 1:30-2:30
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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.]

Assignments
Class Participation/Homework: 20%
Midterm Exam: 25%
Short Paper: 25%
Final Term paper: 30%
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 due date. These will be evaluated on your understanding of the material, and the clarity and presentation of your argument.

Final Paper:
There will be a more substantial (2500 words) paper due at the end of the semester, deepening your understanding and synthesis of a topic from Nietzsche’s writings. I will provide a list of topics, but you are free to choose one of your own, as long as you speak with me in advance. This work should draw from at least three of Nietzsche’s works, and include at least two secondary sources. The final paper may be a substantial, synthetic reworking of the shorter paper.

Academic Misconduct:
Academic integrity requires commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Any action that contravenes these values, including but not limited to plagiarism, falsification, multiple submissions, or cheating of any kind undermines the purpose of scholarly work and violates the fundamental academic rights of members of our community. Please read the University Calendar’s “Policy on Academic Integrity.”

Diversity
The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a supportive and safe learning and working environment for all its members.

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Schedule of Classes

Week One – Introduction

January

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<td>3</td>
<td>Introductions, Explanations, Hesitations</td>
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| 5    | History and Hysterics  
|      | Read: Domino, *Nietzsche’s Syphilis* (review) |

Week Two - Roots and Inspirations

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| 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*

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| 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*

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| 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*

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| 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) |
**PHIL 314-Nietzsche**  
**Course Outline**

**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 Why I am so Clever
   Read: Ecce Homo, Part II
23 Why I Write Such Good Books
   Read: Ecce Homo, Parts III & IV

Week Thirteen -- The Nietzsche Legacy

27 Feminist Nietzsche
   Read: Peter Burgard, Nietzsche & the Feminine (Introduction)
   (Course Spaces)
28 Genealogy & “Biopower”
   Read: Chloe Taylor, “Foucault and the Ethics of Eating”
   (Course Spaces)
30 Good Friday (No Class)

Week Fourteen -- Dionysian Revelries

April 3 Nietzsche’s Future
   Read: Arthur Kroker
4 Nietzsche’s Future
   Guest Speaker: Arthur Kroker
6 Last Class

**April 20th FINAL PAPERS DUE**