

# PHILOSOPHY 314

## 19<sup>th</sup> 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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Office Hours: Tues: 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 19<sup>th</sup> Century, from his roots in Schopenhauer 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 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**      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)



**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”  
          (CourseSpaces)
- 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 20<sup>th</sup> FINAL PAPERS DUE\*\***