PHILOSOPHY 311
Existentialist Thinkers: Nietzsche

PHIL 311 (CRN 22337)   Instructor: Nina Belmonte
SPRING 2020   Office: CLE 326
Tues., Wed., Fri.: 11:30-12:20   Office Hours: Tues: 1:30-2:30
DSB C130   Email: belmonte@uvic.ca

Course Objectives

A founding figure of our intellectual epoch, Nietzsche’s influence cannot be overstated. He wrote “in blood” - his language artful, excessive and notoriously opaque. How are we to understand him, then?

In this course we will explore Nietzsche’s work in the context of the larger existentialist and general philosophical tradition, from his roots in Shopenhauer and Emerson to the development of his extraordinary notions of the Will to Power, the Overman and Eternal Return, Genealogy, Art and Life. We will read widely in his works, including The Birth of Tragedy and Thus Spoke Zarathustra, Beyond Good and Evil, Genealogy of Morals and 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, then make up our minds for ourselves.

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, two short exegetical papers, 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.]


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

Assignments

Class Participation/Homework: 20%
Two Short Papers (25% each) 50%
Final Term paper: 30%
100%

Evaluation

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
PHIL 311-Nietzsche
Course Outline

A- = 80-84    B- = 70-72
Description of Assignments

Class Participation/Homework:
I expect you not only to attend class, but also to read the assignments and do them 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 at the beginning of 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. DO NOT EMAIL THE HOMEWORK.

Two Short Papers (~1000 Words):
There will be two short papers required for this course. These will be predominantly exegetical writings, 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 discussion.

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.

Policy on Late Assignments
Limited, short-term extensions may be granted on a case by case basis, as long as the request is made before the day the assignment is due. Appropriate accommodations will be made for those with an accommodation letter from the Center for Accessible Learning, but please note that such a letter is not “a blanket extension on all work, nor is it a license to submit work after the course has ended.”

A Note on Academic Integrity and Plagiarism
Actions such as plagiarism, multiple submissions, falsifying materials used in academic evaluations, cheating, aiding others to cheat, or unauthorized use of an editor violate University policies on academic integrity and are considered serious offence. You must inform yourself about the university regulations (see UVic Policy on Academic Integrity).

Classroom Conduct
Since the quality of the learning environment is paramount, every student has the right to learn in an inclusive, cooperative, and effective environment. In this classroom, we will treat each other with respect, even and especially when we disagree. In order to keep our discussions distraction-free, you are expected to turn off your cell phones, mp3 players, and other electronic devices during class. The use of laptops is not necessary in the dynamic and participatory environment of a discussion-based course.
## Schedule of Classes

### Week One – Introduction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>January</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>Introductions, Explanations, Hesitations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>History and Hysterics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Read: Domino, <em>Nietzsche’s Syphilis</em> (review)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hemelsoet et al, “The Neurological Illness of F. Nietzsche”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Week Two - Roots and Inspirations

|        | 14 | Roots: Romantic Pessimism               |
|        |   | Read: Schopenhauer, “The World as Will” (CourseSpaces) |
|        | 15 | Roots: Pessimistic Romanticism          |
|        |   | Read: Schopenhauer (Cont.)              |
|        | 17 | Inspiration                             |
|        |   | Read: Emerson, “Self-Reliance” (CourseSpaces) |

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

|        | 21 | Apollo/Dionysus                         |
|        |   | Read: Homer’s Contest (CourseSpaces) and *Birth of Tragedy*, 1-4 |
|        | 22 | Dionysian Artist                        |
|        |   | Read: *Birth of Tragedy*, 5, 7          |
|        | 24 | Philosophy and the Death of Tragedy     |
|        |   | Read: *Birth of Tragedy*, 12-15, 19     |

### Week Four – Untimely Meditations

|        | 28 | A New Voice                             |
|        |   | Read: Nietzsche, “On Truth and Lies In the Extramoral Sense” (CourseSpaces) |
|        | 29 | Language as Metaphor                    |
|        |   | Read: Truth and Lies, (Cont.)           |
|        | 31 | The Goal                                |
|        |   | Read: “Shopenhauer as Educator” (Excerpt, CourseSpaces) |

### Week Five - A Book for Everyone and Nobody

| February | 4  | **Camel, Lion, Child**                  |
|          |   | Read: *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, Part I (through Speech 1) |
|          |   | **Short Paper Due**                      |
|          | 5  | 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 Six -- A Philosophy of the Future

11 Eternal Recurrence
   Read: Gay Science, Sect. 340-342 (Excerpt, CourseSpaces)

12 The Death of God
   Read: Gay Science, Sect. 109, 110, 124-125 (Excerpt, CourseSpaces)

14 Sickness and Health
   Read: Gay Science, Preface

Week Seven -- READING BREAK

February 17-21

Week Eight -- Beyond Good & Evil

25 Philosophers
   Read: Beyond Good & Evil, Preface, Part One

26 Free Spirits
   Read: BG&E, Part Two

28 “Natural” History
   Read: BG&E, Part Five

Week Nine -- Noble Virtues

March 3 Scholars and Philosophers
   Read: BG&E, Part 6

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

6 Noble Virtues
   Read: BG&E, Part Nine

Week Ten -- Genealogy and Polemic

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

11 Noble Beasts
   Read: Genealogy of Morals, First Essay

13 Crimes and Punishments
   Read: Genealogy of Morals, Second Essay
Week Eleven - Aesthetic Ideal
17** Aesthetic Ideals
   Read: Genealogy of Morals, Third Essay
   **Short Paper Due**
18 Rhetoric and Reversals
   Read: Genealogy of Morals, Third Essay
20 Questions and Answers

Week Twelve -- How One Becomes What One Is
24 Why I am so Wise
   Read: Ecce Homo, Part I
25 Why I am so Clever
   Read: Ecce Homo, Part II
27 Why I Write Such Good Books
   Read: Ecce Homo, Part III

Week Thirteen -- The Nietzsche Legacy
31 Why I am Destiny
   Read: Ecce Homo, Part IV

April 1 Foucault’s Genealogy of Power
   Read: Foucault, History of Sexuality, Vol. 1, “Method”
   (CourseSpaces)

3 Last Class

**April 9th FINAL PAPERS DUE**