

**PHIL4512 Nietzsche
Course Outline**

Time :	M 13:30-16:15	Location :	UCC 201
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Course overview

This course is a general and comprehensive introduction to one of the most provocative and controversial figures in the history of philosophy. The course will explore the development and significance of Nietzsche's works starting with his early writings and ending with his late works. We will address such themes as the Dionysian and the Apollinian, the Eternal Recurrence, the Death of God, genealogy, master and slave morality, the Will to Power, and the Overhuman.

Learning outcomes

1. Obtain familiarity with the central themes and concepts in Nietzsche's writings.
2. Learn how to understand and evaluate the highly unusual philosophical arguments, employed by Nietzsche and by a number of philosophers who have been inspired by him.
3. Develop critical and exegetical skills by means of reading and interpreting Nietzsche's works.
4. Obtain the ability to further explore the central Nietzschean themes as addressed in the writings of post-Nietzschean philosophy.
5. Improve your skills of presenting philosophical arguments in written and oral form.
6. Learn how to adopt a philosophical attitude as a form of resistance to various forms of dogmatism.

Topics

I. Introduction

1. Nietzsche and His Influence

II. The Early Period: The Birth of Tragedy

2. The Apollinian and the Dionysian
3. Tragedy and Nietzsche's Philosophy of Life
4. Nietzsche and Socrates

III. The Middle Period: Gay Science

5. The Death of God
6. The Eternal Recurrence

IV. The Late Period: Beyond Good and Evil, Genealogy of Morals, and Thus Spoke Zarathustra

7. Reevaluation of All Values
8. Genealogy
9. Master and Slave Morality
10. The Overhuman

Learning activities

In this course, you are expected to

- read and think about the assigned readings;
- develop the skills mentioned in the course outcomes through philosophical discussion and writing (essays and summaries of the readings);
- attend *all* lectures/tutorials to participate in discussion.

Activities and workload:

In-class (mandatory):

1. Lecture: 2 hours each week.
2. Interactive tutorial: one session every week.

Out-of-class (average workload per week):

1. Reading: 3–4 hours on the basic and suggested readings each week.
2. Weekly writing assignments: An average of 1 hour on weekly writing assignments.
3. Essays: About 2 hours each week on preparing and writing essay assignments throughout the term. You should try to design a schedule that allows you to apportion more time on writing and discussing your essay with your teacher two to three weeks before the first and the second essays are due.

Assessment scheme

Since a major aim of this course is to develop students' ability to interpret, analyze, and generate philosophical arguments through discussion and writing, the assessment methods are designed to encourage participation and learning through argumentative writing.

Task nature	Description	Weight
Participation	Discussion	20%
Weekly writing assignments	1 page length critical summaries of the readings	20%
First Essay	Around 1500 words	20%
Second Essay	Around 3000 words	40%

Remarks:

1. Participation in tutorial discussions as well as in the regular class discussions: Grading is based on the student's active participation. *Absence will damage your grades.* Detailed guidelines on requirements and assessment method of tutorials will be provided in class.
2. Weekly writing assignments: your task to submit one single-spaced typewritten page each week. In these assignments, you are supposed to a) provide a 1-2 paragraph long summary of the assigned readings, b) identify what you consider to be the weakest part of the work (philosophically, with argumentation) and explain why (one paragraph), c) identify what you consider the stronger part of the work (philosophically, with argumentation) and explain why (1 paragraph), d) come up with some good questions for discussion in class. Your summaries should be approximately 500 words long.
3. Essays: you may choose to write on any philosophical problem addressed in this course. You will be asked to submit a preliminary statement on a chosen topic three weeks before the essays are due. You will be expected to do some independent research, to formulate a central thesis and to develop arguments in support of it.

Recommended learning resources

Required Text:

The Basic Writings of Nietzsche, trans. and ed. by Walter Kaufmann, New York: The Modern Library, 2000.

This anthology comprises most of the readings you are expected to cover in this course.

References:

1. Allison, David, ed. *The New Nietzsche: Contemporary Styles of Interpretation*, Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 1985.
2. Babich, Babette. *Nietzsche's Philosophy of Science*, Albany: State University of New York Press, 1994.
3. Clark, Maudemarie. *Nietzsche on Truth and Philosophy*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990.
4. Danto, Arthur. *Nietzsche as Philosopher: An Original Study*, New York: Columbia University Press, 1965.
5. Deleuze, Gilles. *Nietzsche and Philosophy*, trans. by Hugh Tomlinson, New York: Columbia University Press, 2006.
6. Derrida, Jacques. *Spurs: Nietzsche's Styles*, trans. by Barbara Harlow, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1979.
7. Hatab, Lawrence. *Nietzsche's Life Sentence: Coming to Terms with Eternal Recurrence*, London: Routledge, 2005.
8. Heidegger, Martin. *Nietzsche, Vol. 1 and 2*, trans. by D.F. Krell, San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1991.
9. Heidegger, Martin. *Nietzsche, Vol. 3 and 4*, trans. by D.F. Krell, San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1991.
10. Hollingdale, R.J., *Nietzsche*, London and New York: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1973.
11. Kaufmann, Walter. *Nietzsche: Philosopher, Psychologist, Anarchist*, New York: Meridian Books, 1956.
12. Klossowski, Pierre. *Nietzsche and the Vicious Circle*, London: Athlone, 1993.
13. Kofman, Sarah. *Nietzsche and Metaphor*, ed. and trans., Duncan Large. London: Athlone Press; Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1993.
14. Nehamas, Alexander. *Nietzsche: Life as Literature*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1985.
15. Nietzsche, Friedrich. *The Portable Nietzsche*, ed. by Walter Kaufmann. New York: Penguin Books, 1977.
16. Nietzsche, Friedrich. *The Gay Science*, trans. by Walter Kaufmann, New York: Vintage Books, 1974.
17. Nietzsche, Friedrich. *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, trans. by Graham Parkes, Oxford University Press, 2005.
18. Schacht, Richard. *Nietzsche*. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1983.
19. Schacht, Richard (ed.), *Nietzsche, Genealogy, Morality: Essays on Nietzsche's On the Genealogy of Morals*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1994.
20. Schrift, Alan D, *Nietzsche and the Question of Interpretation: Between Hermeneutics and Deconstruction*. New York: Routledge, 1990.
21. Shapiro, Gary. *Nietzschean Narratives*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1989.
22. Yovel, Yirmiyahu, ed. *Nietzsche as Affirmative Thinker*. Dordrecht: Martinus Nihoff Publishers, 1986.

Feedback for evaluation

1. You are strongly encouraged to provide feedback on the course via email or meetings with professor or tutors.
2. Midway through the term, you will also be asked to provide feedback via a brief questionnaire on the course.
3. As with all courses in Philosophy Department, you will evaluate the course through a survey and written comments at the end of the term as well as via regular feedback that you will be able to provide to your teacher. This information is highly valued and is used to revise teaching methods, tasks, and content.

Course schedule

Week	Topics	Required reading	Remarks
1	Introduction		
2-3	The Apollinian and the Dionysian	<i>The Birth of Tragedy</i>	Submit a paper topic at the beginning of the 5th meeting
4-7	Death of God	<i>Gay Science</i>	First Essay is Due at the beginning of the 8 th meeting
8-10	Reevaluation of all values	<i>Beyond Good and Evil</i>	Submit a paper topic at the beginning of the 10 th meeting
11-12	Genealogy as a Method Master and Slave Morality	<i>Genealogy of Morals</i>	
12-13	The Eternal Recurrence The Overhuman	<i>Thus Spoke Zarathustra</i> , Book 1	Second Essay is due at the beginning of the last meeting

* This course schedule is tentative and it might be modified with the aim of adapting it to your intellectual interests and needs.

Details of course website

Relevant announcements and course documents will be posted on Blackboard.

Contact details for teacher(s) or TA(s)

Professor	
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