

PHIL 4532
Nietzsche
Course Outline

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 basis 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 (short essays and reflective summaries of the readings);
- attend *all* lectures/tutorials to participate in discussion.

Activities and workload:

In-class (mandatory):

Lecture/Seminar Discussion: 3 hours each week.

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

1. Reading: 3–4 hours on the basic and suggested readings each week.
2. Writing Assignments: 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%
Two Reflective Summaries	2 page length critical summaries of the readings	30%
Final Essay	Around 2500-3000 words	50%

Remarks:

1. Participation in class discussions: Grading will be based on your active participation. *Absence will damage your grades.*
2. Reflective Summaries: Each summaries should be approximately two single-spaced typewritten pages. In these assignments, you are supposed to a) provide a 1-2 paragraphs long summary of the assigned readings, b) identify what you consider to be the most questionable parts of the work (philosophically, with argumentation) and explain why (1-2 paragraphs), c) identify what you consider the strongest and most important parts of the readings (philosophically, with argumentation) and explain why (1-2 paragraphs), d) come up with some good questions for discussion in class. Each summary should be approximately 1000 words long.
3. The term paper: 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 essay is due. You will be expected to do some independent research, to formulate a central thesis as well as 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 you're your professor.
2. 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

<i>Week</i>	<i>Topics</i>	<i>Required reading</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1	Introduction		
2-3	The Apollinian and the Dionysian	<i>The Birth of Tragedy</i>	
4-7	Death of God	<i>Gay Science</i>	First reflective summary, due no later than Oct. 3
8-10	Reevaluation of all values	<i>Beyond Good and Evil</i>	Second reflective summary, due not later than Nov. 7
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	Final 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)

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Academic honesty and plagiarism

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academic_honesty/

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed **declaration** that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. For group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign the declaration.

For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.