

PHILOSOPHY 482g

History of Philosophy - Nietzsche

Instructor: Glen Baier

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Office Hours – Abbotsford – Monday – 11:30 - 1 pm.

Thursday 11:30- 1 pm.

Chilliwack – Wednesday 11:30- 1 pm.

Course Content: The course will allow students to explore a number of major works of Nietzsche with the intent of clarifying his critique of traditional metaphysics. At the core of this critique is the assertion that metaphysics, as philosophy, is the propagation of conspicuous falsehoods. To facilitate our reading of Nietzsche, we will highlight his treatment and analysis of Kant. In *Beyond Good and Evil*, Kant is named, and even ridiculed, for his 'contribution' to philosophy. However, what is on the surface a case of ad hominem is, on closer examination, a careful dissection of Kant's 'transcendental deduction'. This critique of Kant will inform our reading of *The Genealogy of Morals*, where the strategy of Kantian philosophy is linked to the history of moral thinking, most prominently in the general manifestations of the Judeo-Christian tradition. We will then conclude by considering how Kant is further revealed to be nothing more than a modern advocate of Platonic philosophy. This insight will come through our reading of *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* and *Twilight of the Idols*. Our analysis of these works will be aided by introductory discussions of the philosophies of Kant and Schopenhauer, and by a reading of portions of Nietzsche's earlier works.

Assignments: Students will be asked to prepare 3 essays of approximately 8 to 12 double-spaced typed pages. One paper will be on *Beyond Good and Evil*. One will be on *The Genealogy of Morals* and the other on readings from *Zarathustra* and *Twilight of the Idols*.

Assignment due dates are listed on the course syllabus. The instructor reserves the right to refuse assignments not handed in on time. If you do not think that you will be able to complete your work by the assigned date, please make an effort to contact me in advance.

Texts: Nietzsche, Friedrich *Beyond Good & Evil: Prelude to a Philosophy of the Future*, Walter Kaufmann (Translator) Vintage (1989)

Nietzsche, Friedrich *On the Genealogy of Morals and Ecce Homo* Walter Kaufmann (Translator) Vintage; Reissue edition (1989) (Required)

Nietzsche, Friedrich *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* Robert Pippin (Editor), Adrian Del Caro (Translator) Cambridge University Press; (2006) (Required)

Nietzsche, Friedrich *Twilight of The Idols And The Anti Christ*, R Hollingdale (Translator) Penguin Classics (2003) (Required)

UFV Coursepack (Required)

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is considered a serious breach of student conduct. Students should be aware that UFV has policies regarding academic dishonesty, including plagiarism and cheating. The policy defines plagiarism as follows:

- Plagiarism occurs when a student presents work or data as original when part, or whole, was written or composed by someone other than the student.
- Plagiarism occurs when paragraphs, phrases, sentences, or ideas within the work are taken from another source without referencing or citing the author.

“When an instructor has evidence of plagiarism or cheating by a student, the instructor is entitled to assign a score of zero with the first incident, and to issue a written notice that any further incident will result in the student being required to withdraw from the course. With any further incidents of plagiarism or cheating, the student may be required to withdraw formally from the course.”

Source: UFV Draft Academic Calendar 2010/2011. Regulations, Grading and Policies Section.

http://www.ufv.ca/calendar/2010_11/General/RegulationsAndPolicies.htm#Student

SYLLABUS

1. January 11th **Course Introduction**

2. January 18th **Kant and Schopenhauer**

Readings: Coursepack: Robert Solomon: ‘Kant and the German Enlightenment’
‘The Self Turned Sour: Schopenhauer’

Arthur Schopenhauer: Selection from *The World as Will and Representation* (Book IV)

3. January 25th **Nietzsche – Early Works**

Readings: Coursepack: ‘The Dionysiac World View’

‘David Strauss, the Confessor and the Writer’

4. February 1st **Beyond Good and Evil**

Readings: *Beyond Good and Evil* Parts 1 – 4.

5. February 8th **Beyond Good and Evil**

Readings: *Beyond Good and Evil* Parts 5-8

6. February 22nd **On the Genealogy of Morals**
Readings: *On the Genealogy of Morals* Nietzsche's Preface, Essays I and II
7. March 1st **On the Genealogy of Morals**
Readings: *On the Genealogy of Morals* Essay III
8. March 8th **Thus Spoke Zarathustra**
Readings: Excerpt from *The Gay Science* (Coursepack)
Thus Spoke Zarathustra First Part
9. March 15th **Thus Spoke Zarathustra**
Readings: *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* Second Part, Third Part
10. March 22nd **Thus Spoke Zarathustra**
Readings: *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* Fourth Part
11. March 29th **Twilight of the Idols**
Readings: *Twilight of the Idols* From the 'Foreword' to the end of 'Morality as Anti-Nature'
12. April 5th **Twilight of the Idols**
Readings: *Twilight of the Idols* From 'The Four Great Errors to the end of 'The Hammer Speaks'
13. April 12th **Considering Nietzsche's Legacy**

ESSAY DUE DATES: 1st Essay- March 1st
2nd Essay- April 5th
3rd Essay – April 30th