

Philosophy 108: Nineteenth Century Philosophy (Nietzsche)

Fall 2015

Professor Don Rutherford

WLH 2209

TuTh 3:30-4:50

Office hours: TuTh 2-3pm, or by app't (HSS 8046)

Office phone: 4-6802

Email: drutherford@ucsd.edu

Class website: ted.ucsd.edu

Nietzsche's writings pose a set of fundamental challenges to Western philosophy. They dispute specific claims philosophers have made about the existence of God, the nature of reality and the foundations of value, as well as calling into question the general ability of philosophy to arrive at timeless truths about these and other topics. We will examine the considerations Nietzsche offers on behalf of these criticisms, as well as the broader cultural background against which he interprets the development of Western philosophy. This will lead us to look closely at some of his most distinctive ideas: the death of God, the overcoming of nihilism, the will to power, the revaluation of all values, and the figure of the *Übermensch*.

I. Texts:

F. Nietzsche (tr. W. Kaufmann), On the Genealogy of Morals/Ecce Homo (Vintage)

F. Nietzsche (ed. W. Kaufmann), The Gay Science (Vintage)

F. Nietzsche (tr. W. Kaufmann), Beyond Good and Evil (Vintage)

F. Nietzsche (tr. W. Kaufman), The Portable Nietzsche (Penguin)

B. Leiter, Nietzsche on Morality, 2nd ed. (Routledge)

All other texts will be made available as PDFs on class TED site.

II. Assignments and Grading

1. Take-home midterm exam, due at turnit.com by 11:59 pm on Sunday, October 25 (30%)
3. One 5-6 pp. paper on *Beyond Good and Evil* due at turnit.com by 11:59 pm on Sunday, November 15 (topics will be handed out one week in advance) (30%)
4. Final exam (40%)
Option 1: Cumulative final during scheduled exam time (December 7, 3-6 p.m.)

Option 2: Research paper (10+ pp.) drawing on Nietzsche's writings and secondary literature. If you elect this option, you must submit a 1-2 pp. proposal for your paper by Tuesday December 1. The paper will be due at the final exam.

III. Other Important Information

- Regular attendance and completion of the required reading ahead of class are critical. Engagement with the course presupposes that you have done the assigned reading and are prepared to discuss it in class.
- Use of computers and other electronic devices is allowed in class for legitimate pedagogical purposes, not for web surfing or personal communications. In general, you should remain as focused on the content of the class as possible.
- If accommodations are needed for a disability or for religious reasons, please discuss the matter with me as soon as possible.
- Extensions will only be given to those who present evidence of a valid excuse in a timely manner. Note that computer or printer failure does **not** usually constitute a valid excuse, so be sure to take all necessary precautions to safeguard your work (backup, backup, backup!). If at any time you believe you have a legitimate claim to an extension, bring it to my attention as soon as possible (e.g., if you are going to be out of town for a legitimate purpose, such as a university-sponsored concert performance, athletic event, conference, or the equivalent). Unexcused late exams or papers will be penalized the equivalent of one +/- letter grade per day.

Students should familiarize themselves with the UCSD Policy on Integrity of Scholarship: <http://students.ucsd.edu/academics/academic-integrity/policy.html>. There is a zero-tolerance policy on plagiarism in this class. If you are pressed for time or blocked, it is **always** better to talk with me and to take the late penalty if necessary, than to submit work that is not your own. All written work will be submitted to turnitin.com, so there is a very high probability that plagiarism will be detected. Anyone who is found to plagiarize work will receive an automatic F for the course. Additional disciplinary penalties may be assigned by the UCSD administration. Receipt of this syllabus constitutes an acknowledgement that you are responsible for understanding and acting in accordance with UCSD guidelines on academic integrity.

IV. Schedule of Classes

Week 0

Th 9/25 Introduction

Week 1 Naturalism and Nietzsche's "Task"

Tu 9/29 *Ecce Homo*
Recommended: Leonard Sax, "What Was the Cause of Nietzsche's Dementia?" (TED)

Th 10/1 *Daybreak*, Preface, bk. II (TED)
Recommended: Leiter, *Nietzsche on Morality*, chs. 1-2

Week 2 Schopenhauer and Nietzsche

Tu 10/6 *Schopenhauer as Educator*, secs. I-V
Excerpts from Schopenhauer, *World as Will and Representation* (TED)

Th 10/8 *Schopenhauer as Educator*, secs. VI-VIII

Week 3

Tu 10/13 *The Gay Science*, Prelude, bks. I-II

Th 10/15 *The Gay Science*, bks. III-IV

Week 4

Tu 10/20 *The Gay Science*, bk. V

Th 10/22 No Class (Midterm due Sunday, 10/25, 11:59 pm)

Week 5

Tu 10/27 *Beyond Good and Evil*, bks. I-III
Recommended: Leiter, *Nietzsche on Morality*, ch. 3

Th 10/29 *Beyond Good and Evil*, bk. IV-VI

Week 6

Tu 11/3 *Beyond Good and Evil*, bks. VII-IX
Recommended: Leiter, *Nietzsche on Morality*, ch. 4

Th 11/5 *Beyond Good and Evil*

Week 7

Tu 11/10 *On the Genealogy of Morals* I

Recommended: Leiter, *Nietzsche on Morality*, chs. 5-6

Th 11/12 *On the Genealogy of Morals II* (Paper due, Sunday, 11/15, 11:59 pm)
Recommended: Leiter, *Nietzsche on Morality*, ch. 7

Week 8

Tu 11/17 *On the Genealogy of Morals III*
Recommended: Leiter, *Nietzsche on Morality*, ch. 8

Th 11/19 *On the Genealogy of Morals III*

Week 9

Tu 11/24 *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, Part I

Th 11/26 No Class-Thanksgiving Holiday

Week 10

Tu 12/1 *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, Part II-III

Th 12/3 *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, Part IV

Final Exam: Monday, 12/7, 3-6 pm