

Philosophy 108: Nineteenth Century Philosophy (Nietzsche)
[DRAFT 8/20/15]

Fall 2015

Professor Don Rutherford

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TuTh 3:30-4:50

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

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Class website:

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 (tr. R. J. Hollingdale), Untimely Meditations (Cambridge)

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)

II. Requirements

1. Midterm exam on Thursday, October 22 (30%)
3. One 5-6 pp. paper on *Beyond Good and Evil* due on November 10 (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. Schedule of Classes

Week 0

Th 9/25 Introduction
Recommended: Leiter, *Nietzsche on Morality*, chs. 1-2

Week 1

Tu 9/29 *Ecce Homo*

Th 10/1 Schopenhauer and Nietzsche

Week 2

Tu 10/6 *Schopenhauer as Educator*, secs. I-V

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 MIDTERM EXAM

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

Th 11/12 *On the Genealogy of Morals II*
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