

Syllabus

Winter 2016

Lecture: TR 12:00pm-1:50pm 1337 Public Affairs
Instructor: Anthony Cross
Email: across@humnet.ucla.edu
Office Hours: R 2-4pm, 378 Dodd Hall, or by appointment.
Course Website: <https://ccle.ucla.edu/course/view/16W-PHILOS177B-1>

Course Description: This course presents an in-depth introduction to the philosophy of Friedrich Nietzsche. The dominant theme of the course is Nietzsche's diagnosis of and reaction to what he perceived as the most serious problem facing the culture of his time: the collapse of faith in objective values. Most famously articulated in Nietzsche's discussion of the "death of God", this problem will serve as a guiding thread through Nietzsche's major philosophical works. We'll begin by exploring Nietzsche's first efforts to come to terms with the problem in his early works, *The Birth of Tragedy* and "On Truth and Lie in an Extra-Moral Sense." We'll then follow the progression of Nietzsche's thought through later works, such as *The Gay Science*, *Beyond Good and Evil*, and *Of The Genealogy of Morality*. Along the way, we'll discuss some of Nietzsche's most suggestive (and provocative) philosophical notions, including the eternal recurrence, perspectivism, the will to power, and Nietzsche's criticisms of traditional morality.

Readings

1. Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Birth of Tragedy (BT)*, translated by Walter Kaufmann
2. Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Gay Science (GS)*, translated by Walter Kaufmann
3. Friedrich Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil (BGE)*, translated by Walter Kaufmann
4. Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Genealogy of Morals (GM)*, translated by Walter Kaufmann
5. Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Portable Nietzsche (PN)*, edited and translated by Walter Kaufmann
6. Supplementary readings to be distributed via CCLE

Course Expectations: You will complete a set of short writing assignments, an in-class midterm exam, and a take-home final. Final grades will be calculated according to the following distribution:

Short Writing Assignments - 40%
Midterm Exam - 20%
Take-home Final - 30%
Participation - 10%

Short Writing Assignments: You will complete six short writing assignments during the quarter, consisting of *short* responses to prompts or questions I will post on the course website. Each response will consist of 300 - 400 words, to be uploaded through CCLE. Responses will be graded according to a rubric that I will distribute in class, and which will be available on CCLE. **NB:** Grading will be blind; do not include any identifying information in your submission. Responses are due by midnight on the listed due date. Late submissions will be penalized at the rate of 1/3 of a letter grade per day late. Once per quarter, you may request a no-questions asked 1-day extension—provided that you do so *before* the deadline.

Exams

The midterm exam will be an in-class exam on 02/9/2016; the final exam will be a take-home exam, turned in via CCLE on 3/15/2016. Further details about each will be distributed in class. You will have two options for the final: a take-home final, or a final paper on a topic of your choice, subject to approval by me. The final will be due 12/8/2015 via CCLE.

Participation: Your participation grade will be determined by your attendance and your contribution to class discussions. If for any reason you cannot attend, you should contact me to let me know about it and to plan on making up what material you've missed. In order to participate effectively, you will need to *do the course reading*. You should complete the assigned reading *before* class, which will allow you to maximize the effectiveness of class for helping you to read and understand Nietzsche. You will also need to bring a copy of the reading to class with you; much of class will be spent looking carefully at selections of Nietzsche's writing, and you will need to have these in front of you in order to participate effectively. (Electronic versions are fine, provided that you are able to comfortably read and discuss these in class.)

Collaboration, Sources, and Academic Integrity: You are allowed to discuss course materials with other students in the class. Similarly, you may—although this is not necessary—consult non-assigned academic sources relevant to the course. In both cases, it should always be the case that the final work that you complete for the course is your own. In this course, we will strictly follow the [UCLA Student Conduct Code](http://www.studentgroups.ucla.edu/dos/students/integrity/). Please be sure that you are familiar with it, and in particular review the sections associated with academic integrity, which are summarized here: <http://www.studentgroups.ucla.edu/dos/students/integrity/>. Any violations will be directly reported to the Office of the Dean of Students, and will usually result in you failing either an assignment, the course, or both. If you have *any* questions about acceptable collaboration, sources, or academic integrity, please don't hesitate to ask me. **NB:** All written work will be submitted to TurnItIn for originality reporting.

Students with Disabilities

Students needing an academic accommodation based on a disability should contact the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) located at (310) 825-1501 or A255 Murphy Hall. When possible, students should contact the OSD within the first two weeks of the term as reasonable notice is needed to coordinate accommodations. For more information visit www.osd.ucla.edu.

Course Timeline

Week 1

- 1/05/2016** Course Introduction; Administrative Issues; Nietzsche's life and thought; How to read Nietzsche.
- 1/07/2016** Nietzsche's idea of the "death of god" and the loss of faith in objective values. Reading: GS §108-125.

Week 2

- 1/12/2016** Nietzsche's early diagnosis of the problem in the *Birth of Tragedy*. The 'Apollonian' and 'Dionysian'. The function of tragedy in Greek culture. Reading: BT §1-10.
- 1/14/2016** The death of Greek tragedy; Socratic rationalism. Reading: BT §11-17.

1/17/2016 **Writing Assignment #1 DUE DATE**

Week 3

- 1/19/2016** Nietzsche abandons the metaphysics of BT. Reading: PN, "On 'Truth' and 'Lie' in an Extra-Moral Sense", BT, "Attempt at a Self-Criticism", GS §54, 57-58.
- 1/21/2016** The Eternal Recurrence as consequence of Nietzsche's notion of the self. Reading: GS §340-342; PN 267 "On the Vision and the Riddle"; Nehamas "The Eternal Recurrence."

1/24/2016 **Writing Assignment #2 DUE DATE**

Week 4

- 1/26/2016** Giving style to one's character: Nietzsche's characterization of the great individual. Reading: GS Book IV.

1/28/2016	Nietzsche's Perspectivism and the status of his philosophical project. Reading: <i>BGE</i> Book 1. Optional: <i>BGE</i> Book 2; Ken Gemes, "Nietzsche's Critique of Truth."
1/31/2016	Writing Assignment #3 DUE DATE
<i>Week 5</i>	
2/02/2016	Towards a Nietzschean ontology? The will to power as an interpretation of self <i>and</i> world. Reading: <i>BGE</i> §13, 36; Nehamas "A Thing is the Sum of Its Effects."
2/04/2016	Nietzsche's account of what is "noble"; The critique of morality: first pass. Reading: <i>BGE</i> Book IX.
<i>Week 6</i>	
2/09/2016	MIDTERM EXAM
2/11/2016	Nietzsche's attack on morality: What is the status of his critique? 'Good' and 'Bad' vs. 'Good' and 'Evil.' The Slave Revolt in Morality. Reading: <i>GM</i> Preface, Essay I.
2/14/2016	Writing Assignment #4 DUE DATE
<i>Week 7</i>	
2/16/2016	Essay I continued: Nietzsche's moral psychology vs. that of traditional morality. Reading: <i>GM</i> I §13; Williams "Nietzsche's Minimalist Moral Psychology."
2/18/2016	Nietzsche's <i>Genealogy</i> , second essay: The Moralization of Bad Conscience. Reading: <i>GM</i> Essay II.
2/21/2016	Writing Assignment #5 DUE DATE
<i>Week 8</i>	
2/23/2016	What is Genealogy? Reading: <i>GM</i> II §12, Guess "Nietzsche and Genealogy."
2/25/2016	Nietzsche's <i>Genealogy</i> , third essay: the meaning of ascetic ideals considered. Reading: Finish reading <i>GM</i> Essay III.
2/28/2016	Writing Assignment #6 DUE DATE
<i>Week 9</i>	
3/1/2016	Ascetic Ideals continued: The Ascetic Ideal and the Will to Truth. Reading: <i>GM</i> Preface, III § 23-28; <i>GS</i> §343-346.
3/3/2016	Summing up Nietzsche's negative project in <i>Twilight of the Idols</i> ; the problem of Socrates. Reading: <i>PN</i> , "The Four Great Errors"; "The Problem of Socrates" in <i>Twilight of the Idols</i> .
<i>Week 10</i>	
3/8/2016	Nietzsche's life and work, by his own lights. Reading: <i>Ecce Homo</i> , "Preface", "Why I Am So Wise", "Why I Am So Clever."
3/10/2016	Conclusion
3/15/2016	TAKE-HOME FINAL DUE