Overview: This course seeks to explain and examine Nietzsche’s philosophy by focusing on a number of key interpretive issues. Through reading a combination of Nietzsche’s own work and material from the secondary literature, we will be considering how a number of his seminal ideas should be understood, including the death of God, nihilism, perspectivism, the eternal recurrence, as well as his criticisms of Judeo-Christian morality and of the will to truth.

Lecturer/ Tutors: The lecturers are Prof. Ken Gemes (k.gemes@bbk.ac.uk) and Dr. Andrew Huddleston (a.c.huddleston@gmail.com). If you have any questions about the material or the organization of the course, please contact them. The tutors are:

Lectures: The lectures for this module will be in **** on Thursdays at 2PM

Seminars: The seminars for this module will be in **** on Thursdays at 3PM

Assessment:
Essays (BA): For this module, you will be assessed on the basis of one essay of around 3000 words (3200 max). You will find a list of essay questions on Moodle. If you wish to write on a different question, you should seek permission from the lecturers in advance. For the essay deadline, please consult the BA Handbook.

Essays (MA): For this module, you will be assessed on the basis of one essay of around 3500 words (3700 max.) You will find a list of essay questions on Moodle. If you wish to write on a different question, you should seek permission from the lecturers in advance. For the essay deadline, please consult the MA Handbook.

Moodle:
Electronic copies of certain course materials will be available through Moodle, at http://moodle.bbk.ac.uk. You will need your ITS login name and password to enter.

Readings:
For a brief general introduction to Nietzsche, Michael Tanner’s Nietzsche: A Very Short Introduction (Oxford, 2001) is a good place to begin. Simon May’s, Nietzsche’s Ethics and his ‘War on Morality’ (Clarendon Press, 1999) gives excellent coverage on many of the main topics of this course. Walter Kaufmann’s Nietzsche: Philosopher, Psychologist, Antichrist (Princeton, 1974) is an longer read, but a work of rewarding quality. For a brief biography Rüdiger Safranski’s Nietzsche: A Philosophical Biography (Norton, 2000) is a good choice.

Because we will be focusing on a range of works by Nietzsche, many relevant passages will be made available on Moodle. However, it would be useful for students to have a copy of the

**Lecture and Seminar Topics with Readings**

*N.B. the volumes cited (e.g. Young 2015) appear in the bibliography below*

**Week 1: Death of God (KG)**

Nietzsche, F., *Gay Science* 125

**Week 2: The Need for Myth (KG)**

Nietzsche, F., *Birth of Tragedy*


**Week 3: Culture and the Great Individual (AH)**

Selected passages on Moodle


**Week 4: Genealogy (AH)**


**Week 5: Morality Critique (AH)**


**Week 6: Nihilism (KG)**

*Will to Power*, Preface, and Sec.’s 1-56 (including “Toward an Outline”)

Gemes, K., “Nietzsche, Nihilism and the Paradox of Affirmation” [forthcoming, available on Moodle]
Week 7: Value of Values (AH)

Selected passages on Moodle


Week 8: Eternal Recurrence (AH)

Selected passages on Moodle


Clark, M., *Nietzsche on Truth and Philosophy*, Ch. 8

Week 9: Perspectivism and Will to Power (KG)

Nietzsche, F., *On the Genealogy of Morals* II 6; III 7; III 12; BGE 36


Week 10: Will to Truth and Ascetic Ideals (KG)

Nietzsche, F., *On the Genealogy of Morals* III

Gemes, K., “‘We Remain of Necessity Stranger to Ourselves’: The Key Message of Nietzsche’s *Genealogy*,” in Acampora 2006.

Selected Monographs on Nietzsche:


**Selected Anthologies on Nietzsche:**


**Selected Essays on Nietzsche**


Kail, P., “‘Genealogy’ and the *Genealogy*” in May 2011.

