

## Nietzsche [L6/L7]

2016-7

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](mailto:k.gemes@bbk.ac.uk)) and Dr. Andrew Huddleston ([a.c.huddleston@gmail.com](mailto: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

following primary texts: *The Birth of Tragedy* (recommended trans. Speirs or Whiteside), *On the Genealogy of Morals* (recommended trans. Kaufmann or Clark/Swenson), and *The Gay Science* (recommended trans. Kaufmann).

### **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*

Gemes, K., and Sykes, C., “The Culture of Myth and the Myth of Culture” in Young 2015

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

Selected passages on Moodle

Young, J., *Nietzsche’s Philosophy of Religion* (Cambridge, 2006), “Introduction.”

Clark, M., and Wonderly, M., “The Good of Community,” in Young 2015

#### **Week 4: Genealogy (AH)**

Nietzsche, F., *On the Genealogy of Morals*, “Preface.”

Geuss, R., “Nietzsche and Genealogy,” *European Journal of Philosophy* 2:3 (1994), 274-92.

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

Nietzsche, F., *On the Genealogy of Morals*, Essay I

Geuss, R., “Nietzsche and Morality” in *European Journal of Philosophy* 5:1 (1997), 1-20.

#### **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

Leiter, B., "Nietzsche's Meta-Ethics: Against the Privilege Readings" in *European Journal of Philosophy* 8:3 (2000), 277-97.

Huddleston, A., "Nietzsche's Meta-Axiology: Against the Sceptical Readings" in *British Journal for the History of Philosophy* 22:2 (2014) 322-42.

### **Week 8: Eternal Recurrence (AH)**

Selected passages on Moodle

Nehamas, A., "The Eternal Recurrence," *Philosophical Review* 89:3 (1980), 331-56.

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

Gemes, K., "Life's Perspectives" in Gemes and Richardson (2013).

### **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:**

Clark, M., 1990, *Nietzsche on Truth and Philosophy*, Cambridge University Press.

Janaway, C., 2007. *Beyond Selflessness: Reading Nietzsche's Genealogy*, Oxford University Press.

Kaufmann, W., 1974., *Nietzsche: Philosopher, Psychologist, Antichrist*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, Princeton University Press

- Leiter, B., 2002, *Nietzsche on Morality*, Routledge.
- May, S., 1999, *Nietzsche's Ethics and his 'War on Morality'*, Clarendon Press.
- Nehamas, A., 1985, *Nietzsche: Life as Literature*, Harvard University Press.
- Reginster, B., 2006. *The Affirmation of Life: Nietzsche on Overcoming Nihilism*, Harvard University Press.
- Richardson, J., 1996, *Nietzsche's System*, Oxford University Press.

### **Selected Anthologies on Nietzsche:**

- Acompora, C., 2006, *Nietzsche's On the Genealogy of Morals: Critical Essays*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.
- Came, D., 2014, *Nietzsche on Art and Life*, Oxford University Press.
- Gemes, K., & Richardson J., 2013, *The Oxford Handbook on Nietzsche*, Oxford University Press.
- Gemes, K., & May, S., eds., 2009, *Nietzsche on Freedom and Autonomy*, Oxford University Press.
- Leiter, B., and Sinhababu, N., eds., 2007, *Nietzsche and Morality*, Oxford University Press.
- May, S., 2011, *Nietzsche's On the Genealogy of Morality: A Critical Guide*, Cambridge University Press.
- Schacht, R., 1994, *Nietzsche, Genealogy, Morality: Essays on Nietzsche's "On the Genealogy of Morals"*, University of California Press.
- Young, J., ed., 2015, *Individual and Community in Nietzsche's Philosophy*, Cambridge University Press.

### **Selected Essays on Nietzsche**

- Anderson, R., "On the Nobility of Nietzsche's Priests" in May 2011.
- Anderson, R., "Nietzsche on Truth, Illusion, and Redemption," *European Journal of Philosophy* 13:2 (2005), 185–225.
- Bittner, R., "Ressentiment" in Schacht 1994.
- Clark, Maudemarie, and David Dudrick, "Nietzsche and Moral Objectivity: The Development of Nietzsche's Meta-ethics," in Leiter and Sinhababu 2007.

- Forster, M., "Genealogy and Morality" *American Dialectic* 1:3 (2011), 346-69.
- Geuss, R., "Culture as Ideal and as Boundary, in his *Politics and the Imagination* (Princeton, 2009).
- Han-Pile, B., "Nietzsche and Amor Fati," *European Journal of Philosophy* 19:2, 224-261.
- Huddleston, A., "What is Enshrined in Morality? Understanding the Grounds for Nietzsche's Critique," *Inquiry* 58:3 (2015), 281-307.
- Hurka, T., "Nietzsche: Perfectionist" in Leiter and Sinhababu 2007.
- Hussain, N., "Honest Illusion: Valuing for Nietzsche's Free Spirits," in Leiter and Sinhababu 2007.
- Hussain, N., "Nietzsche's Meta-ethical Stance," in Gemes and Richardson 2013.
- Leiter, Brian, "Moral Skepticism and Moral Disagreement in Nietzsche," *Oxford Studies in Metaethics*, ed. Russ Shafer-Landau. (Oxford, 2014).
- Loeb, P., "Identity and Eternal Recurrence" in *A Companion to Nietzsche*, ed. Keith Ansell-Pearson (Blackwell, 2006).
- Loeb, Paul, "Eternal Recurrence" in Gemes and Richardson Oxford, 2013.
- Kail, P., "'Genealogy' and the *Genealogy*" in May 2011.
- Wallace, "Ressentiment, Value, and Self-Vindication: Making Sense of the Slave Revolt," in Leiter and Sinhababu 2007.
- Silk, Alex, "Nietzschean Constructivism" *Inquiry* 58:3 (2015).
- Soll, I., "Reflections on Recurrence: A Re-examination of Nietzsche's Doctrine, die ewige Wiederkehr des Gleichen" in *Nietzsche: A Collection of Critical Essays*, ed. Robert Solomon (Notre Dame, 1973).