

Philosophy G4278
Neuhouser
Spring 2010
fneuhous@barnard.edu
W: 9:00-10:50
Hall, 326-D

Frederick

Milbank

854-2064

Office Hours: W, Th: 2-3 (& by appointment)

NIETZSCHE

Enrollment is limited to 20 undergraduates and requires permission of the instructor.

The seminar will be focused on a careful reading of two principal texts by Nietzsche, *Birth of Tragedy* and *On the Genealogy of Morals*.

Required Texts:

Nietzsche, Friedrich, *Birth of Tragedy*, Raymond Geuss, ed. (Cambridge)

[= BT]

_____, *Gay Science*, Walter Kaufmann, trans. (Vintage) [= GS]

_____, *On the Genealogy of Morals*, Walter Kaufmann, trans. (Vintage)

[= GM]

_____, *Twilight of the Idols*, R. J. Hollingdale, trans. (Penguin)

[= TI]

Recommended Texts:

Nietzsche, Friedrich, *Beyond Good and Evil*, Walter Kaufmann, trans. (Vintage)

[= BGE]

[Especially: §§18-23, 32, 36, 46-7, 51-2, 55-6, 59, 186-9, 195, 197, 199, 201-3, 211, 219-20, 228-30, 257-60, 272, 293]

_____, *Daybreak*, R. J. Hollingdale, trans. (Cambridge)

[= D]

[Especially: Preface, §§9-10, 18, 37, 49, 52-4, 65, 68-72, 76-8, 95-6, 103, 122, 140, 172, 189, 197-9]

201-2, 214, 221, 233, 236, 240, 262, 356-7, 360, 411, 424-5, 428-9, 437, 446, 453, 516, 546]

_____, *Ecce Homo*, Walter Kaufmann, trans. (Vintage) [= EH]

_____, *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, Walter Kaufmann, trans. (Penguin)

[= TSZ]

[II: "On Redemption;" III: "The Convalescent"]

Reginster, Bernard, *The Affirmation of Life: Nietzsche on Overcoming Nihilism* (Harvard) [= ALNON]

Schopenhauer, Arthur, *The World as Will and Representation*, vol. 1 (Dover)

[= WWR]

Schedule of Class Meetings:

Jan. 20 Introductory Session

[WWR: 1st & 2nd Prefaces, §§1-7, 17-25, 27, 29, 53-4, 56-61, 68, 71;

ALNON: Intro., pp. 103-23]

27 BT: Foreword, §§1-10

[TI: "Expeditions of an Untimely Man," §§20-4; "What I Owe to the Ancients," §§4-5]

Feb. 3 BT: §§11-25

[TI: "The Problem of Socrates"]

10 BT: "An Attempt at Self-Criticism" (pp. 3-12)

- [ALNON: ch. 1]
- 17 GS: Foreword, Book V
[TSZ: selections listed above; ALNON: ch. 5]
- 24 GM: Preface
[TI: "The 'Improvers' of Mankind," §§7-8; "Expeditions of an Untimely Man," §5;
ALNON: ch. 2]
- Mar. 3 GM: Essay I
[BGE: §260; EH: "Why I Am So Wise," §6]
- 10 TI: "Morality as Anti-Nature" [and introductory lecture on GM: Essay II]
- Mar. 17 SPRING BREAK
- 24 GM: Essay II: §§1-12
[TI: "The Four Great Errors," §§7-8; "Expeditions of an Untimely Man," §34, §49]
- 31 GM: Essay II: §§13-25
- Apr. 7 GM: Essay III: §§1-12
[TI: "The 'Improvers' of Mankind," §2; ALNON: pp. 124-47]
- 14 GM: Essay III: §§13-18
- 21 GM: Essay III: §§19-24
- 28 Concluding discussion of GM
[ALNON: ch. 6]

Course requirements for Philosophy Ph.D. students (graded credit)

- Regular attendance of seminar meetings
 - One 10-15 minute seminar presentation
 - One 20-25-page term paper, due May 10
- [Please note new Philosophy Department policy on incompletes: "Requests for a grade of 'Incomplete' must be made in advance and in writing, with an appropriate explanation, to the DGS. All recommendations for granting Incompletes will be reported to the Dean of GSAS."]

Course requirements for Philosophy Ph.D. students (R credit)

- Regular attendance of seminar meetings
- One 10-15 minute seminar presentation

Course requirements for non-Philosophy Ph.D. students (graded credit)

- Regular attendance of seminar meetings
- One 20-25-page term paper, due May 10

Course requirements for non-Philosophy Ph.D. students (graded credit)

- Regular attendance of seminar meetings

Course requirements for Masters students

- Regular attendance of seminar meetings
- One 5-page paper, due Monday, February 12, 5:00 p.m.
- One outline for final term paper, due April 14, 9:00 a.m.
- One 20-page term paper, due Monday, May 10

Course requirements for undergraduates

- Attendance of all seminar meetings
- One 5-page paper, due Monday, February 12, 5:00 p.m.
- One short take-home midterm
- One outline for final term paper, due April 14, 9:00 a.m.
- One 18-20 page term paper, due May 3, 5:00 p.m.
- One in-class final exam

Final grades will be determined as follows:

15%	First paper
45%	Final paper
10%	Midterm exam
30%	Final exam

A passing grade on each assignment is required to pass the course. Irregular attendance will influence final grades (negatively) in borderline cases.

A note on grades: In recent years some students seem to have acquired the belief that merely turning in the required course work assures them a grade of B. In this course I consciously attempt to break with the current trend of rampant grade inflation. This means that I use the full range of the grading scale, A to F. B's are reserved for good work; merely satisfactory work receives a C. Since A designates excellence ("standing out"), it's unlikely that, say, 40% of the class will receive a final grade of A. On the other hand, I don't curve grades, so if half the class does excellent work, half the class will receive an A.

All assignments in this class are to be completed in accordance with the **Barnard Honor Code**. Columbia students commit themselves to the Honor Code upon registering for a Barnard course. The codes says, in part: "We consider it dishonest to ask for, give, or receive help in examinations or quizzes, to use any papers or books not authorized by the instructor in examinations, or to present . . . written work that is not entirely our own, unless otherwise approved by the instructor."

The penalty for **plagiarism** will be failure of the course in all cases. If you are in any doubt as to what constitutes the illegitimate use of another person's work, don't hesitate to consult me.

E-mail: fneuhouse**@**barnard.edu. You may contact me by e-mail when you have a question that can be answered in a sentence or two (e.g., about course requirements or to set up an appointment). E-mail is a great convenience, but it can't replace philosophical conversation in person. When you have philosophical questions, please come to my office hours or make an appointment with me. I'm happy to meet you as often as you like, but I won't carry on philosophical exchanges via e-mail. **Don't send me copies of your papers as e-mail attachments. Only hard (paper) copies will be accepted.**

Students who need disability-related accommodations should both see me and stop by the Office of Disability Services as soon as possible.