PL320 The Philosophy of Friedrich Nietzsche

Module: Movement and Thinkers
Seminar Leader: Tracy Colony
Course Times: Monday 15:15-16:45, Wednesday 15:15-16:45
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Office Hours: TBA

Course Description
The influence of Nietzsche’s work upon later continental philosophy is perhaps unparalleled. In this course we will read selections from his major works in order to introduce central themes of his philosophy such as the will to power, the eternal recurrence and the death of god. Reading chronologically, we will trace though the development of Nietzsche’s thought with special attention to Nietzsche’s understanding of metaphysics and his preparations for an alternative future for philosophy. Of particular importance will be the role which Nietzsche’s understanding of genealogy plays in these preparations. In this course we will also chart the history of the reception of Nietzsche’s philosophy and become familiar with seminal works in the secondary literature such as those by Heidegger, Deleuze, Derrida and Malabou. All texts will be read in translation, however, parallel readings in the original German will be supported and encouraged.

Requirements
Attendance is required at all classes. Lateness can ruin a class and will therefore not be tolerated. Absences are registered in all classes, and lateness is registered as absence. More than two absences in a semester will significantly affect your grade for the class.

Assessment and Writing Assignments: There will be specific reading assignments for each meeting. Everyone is expected to have done all assigned reading in advance. There will be one midterm essay of 2500 words due at 23:59 March 14th. There will be one final essay of 4500 words due at 23:59 on May 20th. Each person will be required to give one 15 minute in class presentation introducing the specific reading for that meeting.

Policy on Late Submission of Papers: All written work must be submitted electronically and on time. As the Student Handbook states, essays that are up to 24 hours late will be downgraded one full grade (from B+ to C+, for example). Instructors are not obliged to accept essays that are more than 24 hours late. Where an instructor agrees to accept a late essay, it must be submitted within four weeks of the deadline and cannot receive a grade of higher than C. Thereafter, the student will receive a failing grade for the assignment.

Grade Breakdown
Midterm Essay 20%
Final Essay 30%
Presentation 20%
Participation 30%
Schedule

All selections are taken from: Keith Ansell Pearson and Duncan Large (eds.) *The Nietzsche Reader*. Oxford, Blackwell 2006

January 26  Introduction (no readings)
January 28  Friedrich Nietzsche: *The Birth of Tragedy* pp. 42-54

February 2  Friedrich Nietzsche: *The Birth of Tragedy* pp. 54-66
February 4  Friedrich Nietzsche: *The Birth of Tragedy* pp. 67-87

February 9  Friedrich Nietzsche: *On Truth and Lies in a Nonmoral Sense* pp. 114-123
February 11 Friedrich Nietzsche: *On Truth and Lies in a Nonmoral Sense* pp. 114-123

February 16 Friedrich Nietzsche: *On the Utility and Liability of History for Life* pp. 124-141
February 18 Friedrich Nietzsche: *On the Utility and Liability of History for Life* pp. 124-141

February 23 Friedrich Nietzsche: *Human, All too Human* pp. 161-190
February 25 Friedrich Nietzsche: *Daybreak* pp. 191-206

March 2 Friedrich Nietzsche: *The Gay Science* pp. 207-219
March 4 Friedrich Nietzsche: *The Gay Science* pp. 219-237

March 9 Friedrich Nietzsche: *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* pp. 245-270
March 11 Friedrich Nietzsche: *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* pp. 270-277

March 23 Friedrich Nietzsche: *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* pp. 277-286
March 25 Friedrich Nietzsche: *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* pp. 286-292

March 30 Friedrich Nietzsche: *Beyond Good and Evil* pp. 311-324
April 1 Friedrich Nietzsche: *Beyond Good and Evil* pp. 324-335

April 6 holiday (no class)
April 8 Friedrich Nietzsche: *The Gay Science* V pp. 362-383

April 13 Friedrich Nietzsche: *On the Genealogy of Morals* pp. 390-424
April 15 Martin Heidegger: “The Raging Discordance between Art and Truth”

April 20 Friedrich Nietzsche: *On the Genealogy of Morals* pp. 424-435
April 22 Gilles Deleuze: “Nomad Thought”

April 27 Friedrich Nietzsche: *Twilight of the Idols* pp. 458-473
April 29 Jacques Derrida: “The Question of Style”

May 4  Friedrich Nietzsche: *The Anti-Christ* pp. 486-499
May 6  Catherine Malabou: “The Eternal Return and the Phantom of Difference”

May 11 Friedrich Nietzsche: *Ecce Homo* pp. 500-516 & Final Summary