

PH334-15 Nietzsche in Context

26/27

Department

Philosophy

Level

Undergraduate Level 3

Module leader

Timothy Stoll

Credit value

15

Module duration

10 weeks

Assessment

Multiple

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This module seeks to introduce and examine Nietzsche's philosophy. We will study several of Nietzsche's works, including *The Birth of Tragedy*, *The Gay Science*, and *On the Genealogy of Morals*, along with a variety of secondary literature. Topics to be discussed will include: Nietzsche's idea of the "death of God," his conception of a tragic worldview, his penetrating insights into psychology, his project of a 'revaluation' of our values, and the values that might be offered in their stead.

Module aims

To provide students with an advanced introduction to the philosophy of Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900).

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

(This reading list is merely indicative. Some actual readings may differ.)

Week 1: Death of God

Nietzsche, *The Gay Science*, §109-125, 343, 357 ; *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, Preface.

Recommended Secondary Reading:

Robert Pippin, *Modernism as a Philosophical Problem* (Blackwell, 1999) [Part IV on Nietzsche]

Week 2: Tragedy and the Greeks

Nietzsche, *The Birth of Tragedy*, Sect. 1-15, 24.

Recommended Secondary Reading:

Raymond Geuss, "Introduction to *The Birth of Tragedy*," in *Introductions to Nietzsche*, ed. Robert Pippin (Cambridge University Press, 2012).

Béatrice Han-Pile, "Nietzsche's Metaphysics in *The Birth of Tragedy*," *European Journal of Philosophy* 14:3 (2006).

Further Reading:

Daniel Came, "The Aesthetic Justification of Existence" in *A Companion to Nietzsche*, ed. Keith Ansell-Pearson (Blackwell, 2006).

Maudemarie Clark, "Deconstructing the Birth of Tragedy" in her *Nietzsche on Ethics and Politics* (Oxford University Press, 2015).

Christopher Janaway, "Beauty is False, Truth Ugly: Nietzsche on Art and Life" in ed. Daniel Came, *Nietzsche on Art and Life* (Oxford University Press, 2014).

Aaron Ridley, *Nietzsche on Art* (Routledge, 2006).

Timothy Stoll, "Nietzsche and Schiller on Aesthetic Semblance," *The Monist* 102:3 (2019).

Julian Young, *Nietzsche's Philosophy of Art* (Cambridge University Press, 1992).

Week 3: History and Morality

Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals*, Preface; *The Gay Science* §345; *Beyond Good and Evil* §§186, 202, 260.

Recommended Secondary Reading:

Raymond Geuss, "Nietzsche and Genealogy," *European Journal of Philosophy* 2:3 (1994).

Bernard Reginster, "What is Nietzsche's Genealogical Critique of Morality," *Inquiry* 67:7 (2020).

Further Reading:

Keith Ansell-Pearson, "A 'Dionysian Drama of the Fate of the Soul': An Introduction to Reading *On the Genealogy of Morality*," in ed. Christa Davis Acampora, *Nietzsche's On the Genealogy of Morals: Critical Essays* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2006).

Maudemarie Clark, "Nietzsche's Immoralism and the Concept of Morality," in her *Nietzsche on Ethics and Politics* (Oxford University Press, 2015).

Michael Forster, "Genealogy and Morality" *American Dialectic* 1:3 (2011).

Ken Gemes, "We Remain of Necessity Strangers to Ourselves: The Key Message of Nietzsche's Genealogy" in ed. Christa Davis Acampora, *Nietzsche's On the Genealogy of Morals: Critical Essays* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2006).

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

Peter Kail, "'Genealogy' and the Genealogy" in ed. Simon May, *Nietzsche's On the Genealogy of Morality: A Critical Guide* (Cambridge, 2011).

Brian Leiter, *Nietzsche on Morality* (Routledge: 2002).

Simon May, *Nietzsche's Ethics and his War on Morality* (Oxford University Press, 1999).

Bernard Reginster, *The Will to Nothingness: An Essay on Nietzsche's On the Genealogy of Morality* (Oxford University Press, 2021).

Week 4: "Master" and "Slave" Moralities; Slave Revolt, and Ressentiment
Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals*, Essay I (complete)

Recommended Secondary Reading:

Mark Migotti, "Slave morality, Socrates, and the Bushmen: A Reading of the First Essay of *On the Genealogy of Morals*," *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 58:4 (1998).

R. Jay Wallace, "Ressentiment, Value, and Self-Vindication: Making Sense of the Slave Revolt," in ed. Brian Leiter and Neil Sinhababu, *Nietzsche and Morality* (Oxford University Press, 2007).

Further Reading:

R. Lanier Anderson, "On the Nobility of Nietzsche's Priests," in ed. Simon May, *Nietzsche's On the Genealogy of Morality: A Critical Guide* (Cambridge, 2011).

Philippa Foot, "Nietzsche's Immoralism" in her *Moral Dilemmas: And Other Topics in Moral Philosophy* (Oxford University Press, 2002).

Rüdiger Bittner, "Ressentiment" in ed. Richard Schacht, *Nietzsche, Genealogy, Morality: Essays on Nietzsche's On the Genealogy of Morals* (University of California Press, 1994).

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

Brian Leiter, *Nietzsche on Morality* (Routledge: 2002).

Peter Poellner, "Ressentiment and Morality," in ed. Simon May, *Nietzsche's On the Genealogy of Morality: A Critical Guide* (Cambridge, 2011).

Simon May, *Nietzsche's Ethics and his War on Morality* (Oxford University Press, 1999).

Bernard Reginster, "Nietzsche on Ressentiment and Valuation," *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 57:2 (1997).

Bernard Reginster, *The Will to Nothingness: An Essay on Nietzsche's On the Genealogy of Morality* (Oxford University Press, 2021).

Gudrun von Tevenar, "Nietzsche's Objections to Pity and Compassion," in ed. Gudrun von Tevenar, *Nietzsche and Ethics* (Peter Lang, 2007).

Week 5: GM II: Bad Conscience and Guilt

Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals*, Essay II (complete)

Recommended Secondary Reading:

Maudemarie Clark, "Nietzsche on Free Will, Causality, and Responsibility" in her *Nietzsche on Ethics and Politics* (Oxford University Press, 2015).

Matthias Risse, "The Second Treatise in *On the Genealogy of Morality*: Nietzsche on the Origin of the Bad Conscience," *European Journal of Philosophy* 9:1 2001.

Further Secondary Reading:

Christa Davis Acampora, "On Sovereignty and Overhumanity: Why It Matters How We Read Nietzsche's Genealogy 11:2," in ed. Christa Davis Acampora *Nietzsche's On the Genealogy of Morals: Critical Essays* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2006).

Ken Gemes, "Nietzsche on Free Will, Autonomy, and the Sovereign Individual," in *Nietzsche on Freedom and Autonomy*, ed. Ken Gemes and Simon May

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

Brian Leiter, *Nietzsche on Morality* (Routledge: 2002).

Brian Leiter, "Nietzsche's Theory of the Will," *Philosopher's Imprint* 7:7 (2007).

Peter Poellner, "Nietzschean Freedom" in *Nietzsche on Freedom and Autonomy*, ed. Ken Gemes and Simon May (Oxford University Press, 2007).

Bernard Reginster (2011) "The Genealogy of Guilt," ed. Simon May, *Nietzsche's On the Genealogy of Morality: A Critical Guide* (Cambridge, 2011).

Bernard Reginster, *The Will to Nothingness: An Essay on Nietzsche's On the Genealogy of Morality* (Oxford University Press, 2021).

Week 6: Reading Week

Week 7: GM III: The Ascetic Ideal and the Will to Truth

Nietzsche, F., *On the Genealogy of Morals, Essay III* (complete)

Recommended Secondary Reading:

Maudemarie Clark, "Will to Power and Sexuality in Nietzsche's Account of the Ascetic Ideal" *Inquiry* 60 (1-2):96-134 (2017).

Ken Gemes, "Nietzsche's Critique of Truth" *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 52:1 (1992).

Further Secondary Reading:

Maudemarie Clark, *Nietzsche on Truth and Philosophy* (Cambridge University Press, 1990), Esp. Chs. 4 and 6

Nadeem Hussain, "The Role of Life in the Genealogy" in ed. Simon May, *Nietzsche's On the Genealogy of Morality: A Critical Guide* (Cambridge, 2011).

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

Scott Jenkins, "Nietzsche's Questions Concerning the Will to Truth," *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 50:2 (2012).

Brian Leiter, *Nietzsche on Morality* (Routledge: 2002).

Alexander Nehamas, *Nietzsche: Life as Literature* (Harvard University Press, 1985), Ch. 7.

Bernard Reginster, *The Will to Nothingness: An Essay on Nietzsche's On the Genealogy of Morality* (Oxford University Press, 2021).

Tom Stern, *Nietzsche's Ethics* (Cambridge University Press, 2020).

Week 8: Nietzsche on Nihilism

Nietzsche, GS 346, 347, 357; Z P 4–5.

Recommended Reading:

Andrew Huddleston, "Nietzsche on Nihilism: A Unifying Thread," *Philosopher's Imprint* 2019.

Maudemarie Clark, "Nietzsche's Nihilism," *The Monist* 102:3 (2019).

Ken Gemes, "Nietzsche, Nihilism, and the Paradox of Affirmation," in Daniel Came (ed.) *Nietzsche on Morality and the Affirmation of Life*. Oxford University Press (2023).

Paul Katsafanas, "Fugitive Pleasure and the Meaningful Life: Nietzsche on Nihilism and Higher Values," *Journal of the American Philosophical Association* 1:3 (2015).

Simon May, "Nihilism and the Free Self," in Simon May (ed.) *Nietzsche on Freedom and Autonomy*. Oxford University Press (2009).

Bernard Reginster, 2006. *The Affirmation of Life: Nietzsche on Overcoming Nihilism*, Harvard University Press.

Week 9: The Eternal Recurrence

Nietzsche, *The Gay Science*, §341; *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, "On Redemption," "The stillest Hour," "On the Image and the Riddle," "On the Spirit of Gravity"; selections from *The Will to Power* [tbc]

Recommended Reading:

Scott Jenkins, "Time and Personal Identity in Nietzsche's Theory of the Eternal Recurrence," *Philosophy Compass* 7:3 (2012).

Alexander Nehamas, "The Eternal Recurrence" *Philosophical Review* 89:3 (1980).

Further Reading:

R. Lanier Anderson, "Nietzsche on Truth, Illusion, and Redemption," *European Journal of Philosophy* 13:2 (2005).

Béatrice Han-Pile, "Nietzsche and Amor Fati," *European Journal of Philosophy* 19:2 (2011).

Paul Loeb, "Identity and Eternal Recurrence," in ed. Keith Ansell-Pearson, *A Companion to Nietzsche* (Blackwell, 2005).

Alexander Nehamas, "How One Becomes What One Is," *Philosophical Review* 92:3 (1983).

John Richardson, "Nietzsche on Time and Becoming," in ed. Keith Ansell-Pearson, *A Companion to Nietzsche* (Blackwell, 2005).

Ivan Soll, "Reflections on Recurrence: A Re-Examination of Nietzsche's Doctrine, die Ewige Wiederkehr des Gleichen," in ed. Robert Solomon, *Nietzsche: A Collection of Critical Essays* (Anchor Press, 1973).

Week 10: Nietzsche's Values and Legacy

Alexander Nehamas, *The Art of Living*, Ch. 5 (pp.128–56)

Hedwig Dohm, "Nietzsche and Women," in ed. Kristin Gjesdal and Dalia Nassar, trans. Anne Ezekiel, *Women Philosophers in the Long Nineteenth Century* (Oxford University Press, 2021).

Thomas Mann, "Nietzsche's Philosophy in Light of Recent History," in *Last Essays*, trans. Richard and Clara Winston (Knopf, 1949).

Recommended Secondary Readings:

Maudemarie Clark and Monique Wonderly, "The Good of Community" in ed. Julian Young, *Individual and Community in Nietzsche's Philosophy* (Cambridge University Press, 2005).

Nadeem Hussain, "Nietzsche's Metaethical Stance" in eds. Ken Gemes and John Richardson, *Oxford Handbook of Nietzsche* (Oxford University Press, 2013).

Further Reading:

Stephen Aschheim, *The Nietzsche Legacy in Germany 1890-1990* (University of California Press, 1994).

Maudemarie Clark, "Nietzsche's Misogyny" in her *Nietzsche on Ethics and Politics* (Oxford University Press, 2015).

Maudemarie Clark, "Nietzsche's Antidemocratic Rhetoric," in her *Nietzsche on Ethics and Politics* (Oxford University Press, 2015).

Brian Leiter, "Nietzsche's Metaethics: Against the Privilege Readings," *European Journal of Philosophy* 8:3 (2000).

Simon May, "Why Nietzsche is Still in the Morality Game" in ed. Simon May, *Nietzsche's On the Genealogy of Morality: A Critical Guide* (Cambridge, 2011).

John Richardson, "Nietzsche on Life's Ends," in ed. Ken Gemes and John Richardson, *Oxford Handbook of Nietzsche* (Oxford University Press, 2013).

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- understand Nietzsche's key ideas and the contribution they make to areas of philosophical inquiry, and be able to provide critical responses to his ideas.
- isolate the important claims within readings, understand the structure of arguments, test views for strengths and weaknesses, make pertinent use of examples, and compare the substance of views consistently.
- verbally communicate complex philosophical ideas clearly and persuasively, and engage in productive dialogue with peers.

Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

[Specific reading list for the module](#)

Subject specific skills

- close-reading and textual analysis of primary source materials (i.e. Nietzsche's writings), and independent research and assessment of secondary literature
- organisation and articulation of independent responses to the subject matter in written and verbal forms
- construction and defence of critical stances and arguments

Transferable skills

- comprehension and analysis of complex and nuanced written communications
- oral and written communication of independent responses to a range of materials
- presentation of well-reasoned argument in support of a conclusion

Study

Study time

| Type | Required |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Lectures | 9 sessions of 2 hours (12%) |
| Seminars | 8 sessions of 1 hour (5%) |
| Private study | 124 hours (83%) |
| Total | 150 hours |

Private study description

No private study requirements defined for this module.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Students can register for this module without taking any assessment.

Assessment group A8

| | Weighting | Study time | Eligible for self-certification |
|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------|--|
| 2200 word essay | 70% | | Yes (extension) |
| 1000 word essay | 20% | | Yes (extension) |
| Seminar participation | 10% | | No |

Assessment group R1

| | Weighting | Study time | Eligible for self-certification |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|--|
| 3000 word essay | 100% | | Yes (extension) |

Feedback on assessment

Feedback on essays will be provided on the coversheet for the essay, addressing standard areas of evaluation and individual content.

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- UPHA-VL78 BA in Philosophy with Psychology
 - Year 2 of VL78 Philosophy with Psychology
 - Year 3 of VL78 Philosophy with Psychology
- Year 4 of UPHA-VL79 BA in Philosophy with Psychology (with Intercalated year)
- UHIA-V1V5 Undergraduate History and Philosophy
 - Year 2 of V1V5 History and Philosophy
 - Year 3 of V1V5 History and Philosophy
- Year 4 of UHIA-V1V6 Undergraduate History and Philosophy (with Year Abroad)
- UMAA-GV17 Undergraduate Mathematics and Philosophy
 - Year 2 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
 - Year 2 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
 - Year 2 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
 - Year 3 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
 - Year 3 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
 - Year 3 of GV17 Mathematics and Philosophy
- UMAA-GV18 Undergraduate Mathematics and Philosophy with Intercalated Year
 - Year 4 of GV18 Mathematics and Philosophy with Intercalated Year
 - Year 4 of GV18 Mathematics and Philosophy with Intercalated Year
- UMAA-GV19 Undergraduate Mathematics and Philosophy with Specialism in Logic and Foundations
 - Year 2 of GV19 Mathematics and Philosophy with Specialism in Logic and Foundations
 - Year 3 of GV19 Mathematics and Philosophy with Specialism in Logic and Foundations
 - Year 4 of GV19 Mathematics and Philosophy with Specialism in Logic and Foundations
- UPHA-V700 Undergraduate Philosophy
 - Year 2 of V700 Philosophy
 - Year 2 of V700 Philosophy
- Year 4 of UPHA-V702 Undergraduate Philosophy (with Work Placement)
- UIPA-V5L8 Undergraduate Philosophy and Global Sustainable Development
 - Year 2 of V5L8 Philosophy and Global Sustainable Development
 - Year 2 of V5L8 Philosophy and Global Sustainable Development
 - Year 3 of V5L8 Philosophy and Global Sustainable Development
 - Year 3 of V5L8 Philosophy and Global Sustainable Development
- Year 4 of UIPA-V5L9 Undergraduate Philosophy and Global Sustainable Development (with Intercalated Year)
- UPHA-VQ72 Undergraduate Philosophy and Literature
 - Year 2 of VQ72 Philosophy and Literature
 - Year 3 of VQ72 Philosophy and Literature
- Year 4 of UPHA-VQ74 Undergraduate Philosophy and Literature (with Work Placement)
- Year 4 of UPHA-VQ73 Undergraduate Philosophy and Literature with Intercalated Year
- Year 4 of UPHA-VL80 Undergraduate Philosophy with Psychology (with Work Placement)
- UPHA-VQ52 Undergraduate Philosophy, Literature and Classics
 - Year 2 of VQ52 Philosophy, Literature and Classics
 - Year 3 of VQ52 Philosophy, Literature and Classics
 - Year 4 of VQ52 Philosophy, Literature and Classics
- UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics

- (Economics Major) (with Intercalated year)
- Year 4 of V7MI Philosophy, Politics and Economics - Philosophy/Economics Bipartite (Philosophy Major) (with Intercalated year)
- Year 4 of V7MJ Philosophy, Politics and Economics - Philosophy/Politics Bipartite (with Intercalated year)
- Year 4 of V7MG Philosophy, Politics and Economics - Politics/Economics Bipartite (Politics Major) (with Intercalated year)
- UPHA-V7MW Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law
 - Year 2 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law
 - Year 2 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law
 - Year 3 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law
 - Year 3 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law