

## *Course Syllabus*

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### **Course Information**

PHIL 4305 NIETZSCHE

Charles Bambach

Spring 2017 T/TH 11:30 AM-12:45 PM

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### **Professor Contact Information**

My office hours, in JO 5.416, are from 3:00 PM-4:00 PM on Tuesday and by appointment; the phone number is 972-883-2006. My e-mail address is: cbambach@utdallas.edu

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### **Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions**

Upper-class standing or permission of instructor

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### **Course Description**

The work of Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900) has exerted a peculiar influence over the cultural-intellectual life of both Europe and America over the past century. Few continental philosophers are as widely known--and few have affected the interpretation of politics and aesthetics as powerfully as Nietzsche. And yet despite all of this attention and engagement no consensus has emerged over whether his works should be embraced or shunned. On the contrary, Nietzsche continues to provoke controversy and conflict. Among political philosophers he is still appropriated by those on the left as well as on the right. Among gender theorists he is attacked as a reactionary and sometimes praised as a kind of proto-feminist. Among cultural critics his works get read as high modernist tracts and/or as postmodern puzzles. I would like to read him in his own context this semester and try to help us come to our own decisions about his work by focusing on the texts themselves.

We will begin our semester by reading some short essays from his early work on "The Greek State," "Homer on Competition" and "On Truth and Lie in an Extra-Moral Sense." We will then turn to a reading of his major texts--*Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, *The Genealogy of Morality*, *The Will to Power*, and *Twilight of the Idols*. By reading a variety of texts from a twenty-year period I want both to provide an overview of his thoughtpath and establish a hermeneutic context within which to develop an understanding of Nietzsche's place within modern philosophy.

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### **Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes**

Students will learn interpretive skills in reading texts with care, improve their writing ability, and gain a rudimentary knowledge of modern continental philosophy.

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### **Required Textbooks and Materials**

The following editions are REQUIRED. You may find them at the UTD Book Store, Off Campus Books, and commercially. It is imperative that you purchase the EXACT editions of these texts and NOT just any translation of these works.

Nietzsche, *THE NIETZSCHE READER* ed. Keith Ansell-Pearson (Blackwells)

Nietzsche, *The Will to Power* (Hollingdale/Kaufmann translation)

Nietzsche *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* (Hollingdale translation)

### **Suggested Course Materials**

David Allison, *Reading the New Nietzsche*

Gianni Vattimo, *Nietzsche: An Introduction*

Karl Löwith, *Nietzsche's Philosophy of the Eternal Recurrence of the Same*

Simon Critchley & W. Schroeder, eds. *A Companion to Continental Philosophy*

Eugen Fink, *Nietzsche's Philosophy*

Charles Bambach, *Heidegger's Roots: Nietzsche, National Socialism, and the Greeks*

Charles Bambach editor, NIETZSCHE SPECIAL ISSUE *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly* Spring 2010 Vol. 84, no. 2, esp. "Nietzsche's Madman Parable: A Cynical Reading", pp. 441-456.

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### **Assignments & Academic Calendar**

10-12 January: Course introduction

17 January: "The Greek State," *Nietzsche Reader*, pp. 33-41 & pp. 88-94

19 January : "Homer's Contest," *Nietzsche Reader*, pp.95-100

24-26 January: "On Truth and Lies in a Non-Moral Sense" *NIETZSCHE READER*, pp. 114-123

31 January-2 February: *The Gay Science* in: *NIETZSCHE READER*, pp.219-237 & pp. 362-383 & pp. 433-435.

7-9 February: *Twilight of the Idols* in: *NIETZSCHE READER* pp. 462-485 & pp.500-502 & 514-516.

14-16-21 February: *The Will to Power*, pp.3-20; pp. 261-331; 520-551

21 February: FIRST TAKE-HOME ESSAY DUE 5 PP.

23-28 February AND 2-7 March: *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* Part One

9 March *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* Part Two

13- 17 March SPRING BREAK

21-23-28-30 March AND 4-6-11-13-18-20-25-27 April: *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* Parts Two-Three-Four

2ND MAY TUESDAY: FINAL ESSAY DUE 8-10 PP.

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### **Grading Policy**

Course requirements include TWO ESSAYS –the first 5pp. essay (30%) the second 8-10 pp. essay (60%). Classroom participation will constitute 10% of the grade (based on quality of insight) and ATTENDANCE. Students will be expected to read the texts for each class and be prepared to discuss them. Since we will be discussing the language and form of each text we read, **STUDENTS WILL BE EXPECTED TO BRING THEIR TEXTS TO CLASS FOR EACH SESSION.**

Grades are assessed on a 4.0 scale as described in the undergraduate catalog.

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### **Course & Instructor Policies**

You cannot hope to pass this class if you do not attend it and complete all of the required work. **I DO NOT ACCEPT LATE PAPERS.** This course will be conducted according to strict codes of academic honesty. All cases of plagiarism will be fully investigated and the deliberate instances reported to the Dean of Students. Penalties for deliberate cheating may include failing the assignment in question, failing the course, or suspension and expulsion from the University. Students are expected to know the University's policies and procedures on such matters, as well as those governing student services, conduct, and obligations.