

RELI 72

Living with Nietzsche

2:55-4:20 Heger 101

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Course Description and Goals: My aim in this course is nothing less than for you to be haunted by your encounter with Nietzsche for years to come! The primary goal of the "Living With...." series is for you to learn to think with some of the most courageous critics of religion. This year we will be focusing on Nietzsche. You will engage with [department goal # 2](#) -- questioning the very concept of religion -- and [department learning goal # 3](#) -- analyzing the social implications of religion.

Along the way, you will also learn how to read theory -- which is to say, how to take what can at first seem like abstract reflections on religion and use them as concrete tools for thinking and living. This will engage you with [departmental learning goal #2](#): learning to differentiate precisely between different theoretical approaches. Hence our focus on close reading, on interpretive papers, and on secondary scholarship.

But this course also meets distribution requirements! You will meet [college goal #1](#). We will focus particularly on accurately summarizing facts, presumptions, viewpoints and values' critically analyzing your own thinking by identifying your own facts, presumptions, viewpoints and values as well as problems and paradoxes; as well as conceiving alternative hypotheses and viewpoints. We will also meet [college goal #3](#) concerning proficiency in written communication, with focus on: using various sentence forms to modulate style and tone; compose a paragraph that develops a point; summarizing,

quoting and responding to a text.

Books to purchase

Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morality* (Cambridge University Press, 1994). It MUST be this translation.

Assignments

- You will earn 40% of your grade from _____ due at the beginning of class. If you are absent, your paper is still due. However, you have 4 Get Out of Jail Free cards – you can either not do four papers, or you can do all the papers and I will drop the 4 lowest grades; or you can do some combo (as in doing all the papers except for one day when you are sick). You just need to let me know!
- You will earn 20% of your grade from
 - Reading the assigned text before class AT LEAST TWICE
 - Attending and participating in an informed way
 - Leading class discussion at least once (if you want to work in a pair, you will facilitate twice)
 - presenting your paper

My attendance policy: You have two days to be absent without consequences. On your third day of absence, you lose all benefit of the doubt when it comes to your final grade. For every absence thereafter, you lose 1/3 of a letter grade from your final grade.
- You will earn the remaining 40% of your grade from two papers (15% for the first and 25% for the second). These papers will be synthetic: I will write them based on themes that we have been discussing in class, trying to pose writing questions that will get you 1) to refer to the reading and 2) to pull large questions together. In order to do well in such a paper, you will need to have read all the reading thoughtfully!

Course Schedule

W Jan 26	Intro: Why Nietzsche? Why close reading?
M Jan 31	<i>Friedrich Nietzsche: A Philosophical Biography</i> by Julian Young, pages 3-26 and pages 112-134.
W Feb 2	<i>Friedrich Nietzsche: A Philosophical Biography</i> by Julian Young, pages 241-255 and 550-562.
M Feb 7	Jill Marsden, "Nietzsche and the Art of the Aphorism, in <i>A Companion to Nietzsche</i> , ed. by Keith Ansell Pearson, 22-37.
W Feb 9	Burlein, "Learning to Drink," Teaching Theology and Religion 4/2. No response due today!
M Feb 14	<i>Genealogy</i> , Preface, pages 3-10 Facilitator: Damien Rivera
W Feb 16	<i>Genealogy</i> , First Essay, aphorisms 1-7 Facilitator: Rebecca Rothberg
M Feb 21	Enjoy your holiday!
W Feb 23	<i>Genealogy</i> , First Essay, aphorisms 8-12.

Facilitator: Ellen Hain

M Feb 28	<i>Genealogy</i> , First Essay, aphorisms 14-17 Facilitator: Erica Roberts
W Mar 2	<i>Genealogy</i> , Second Essay, aphorisms 1-3 Facilitator: Micaela Manley
M Mar 7	<i>Genealogy</i> , Second Essay, aphorisms 4-10 Facilitator: Steve Rousseau
W Mar 9	<i>Genealogy</i> , Second Essay, aphorisms 11-14 Facilitator: Dustin Hausner
M Mar 14	<i>Genealogy</i> , Second Essay, aphorisms 15-19 Facilitator: Alex Amaitis
W Mar 16	Read paper assignment and come with a possible topic to hand in.
M Mar 21	<i>Genealogy</i> , Second Essay, aphorisms 20-25 Facilitator: Paige Loch
W Mar 23	catch up day
M Mar 28	Your first paper due
W Mar 30	<i>Genealogy</i> , Third Essay, aphorisms 1-8 Facilitator: Ricky Tonetta
M Apr 4	No paper due today! (catch up on your other courses)
W Apr 6	<i>Genealogy</i> , Third Essay, aphorisms 9-12 Facilitator: Sarah Caruso
M Apr 11	<i>Genealogy</i> , Third Essay, aphorisms 13-17 Facilitator: Stephen Mobilio
M Apr 18 - Apr 25	<i>Genealogy</i> , Third Essay, aphorisms 18-22 Facilitator: Keith Scott
W Apr 27 (conversion day)	Enjoy your break!
M May 2	Read paper assignment #2 and come with a topic to hand in.
W May 4	<i>Genealogy</i> , Third Essay, aphorisms 23-26 Facilitator: Ivy Scarborough
M May 9 and W May 11	<i>Genealogy</i> , Third Essay, aphorisms 27-28 Facilitator: Bill Eichhold
Final exam TBA	Second paper due

Grading Policies: Studying religion is both an academic and a personal exercise. In your written assignments you will be graded on thinking and argumentation. I will not grade your personal beliefs or non-belief. Nor will I grade or the particular position you take. I will grade

- **how well you articulate why** you (or someone) thinks a particular (and precisely articulated) way
- **how closely you read** the assigned materials
- how much you are able to **make connections** between readings
- how much your ability to **reflect critically** on the position you take grows over time.

Late Work Policy: In order to return your writing promptly with detailed and constructive feedback, I do not accept late work. You will earn an F and forfeit your right to feedback. If there is an emergency or a tragedy in your life and you need an exception, you must communicate with me **BEFORE the due-date**. This includes tests: if you are too sick to attend class on a day when we are scheduled to take a test, you must call and let me know **BEFORE class begins** that you will not be able to take the test and arrange time for

a make-up.

Academic Dishonesty: Plagiarism is a serious ethical and professional infraction. Hofstra's policy on academic honesty reads: "The academic community assumes that work of any kind [...] is done, entirely, and without assistance, by and only for the individual(s) whose name(s) it bears." Please refer to the [Procedure for Handling Violations of Academic Honesty by Undergraduate Students at Hofstra University](#) for details about what constitutes plagiarism, and Hofstra's procedures for handling violations.

This course is dedicated to helping you develop your own thinking. Thus I regard plagiarism as a serious violation of the academic compact, because it involves passing off someone else's thought as your own. This can happen by copying someone else's words or re-phrasing someone else's ideas in your words. Neither is your own thought.

0 -- You handed in an assignment that was not your own.

F -- There are two ways to earn an F. Your writing was fantastic -- but late. OR your writing fails to answer the questions, expresses little accurate information, and/ or is not coherent.

D -- shows effort, but the information and explanation are weak. You need to make more references to the readings.

C -- articulates **what** you think clearly. You need to engage in a more detailed and systematic way with the readings.

B -- explores **why** you think the way you do. You need to critique yourself (see the next grade level).

A -- reserved for excellence, when you use the material as a springboard for higher level thinking. You engage with other perspectives and counter-arguments. You elaborate a creative and original take on the readings and issues being discussed in class, and you articulate your thoughts in your own voice. You go beyond stating your point of view to evaluate the pros and cons of thinking the way you do.

Disabilities Policy

If you have any concerns regarding a physical, psychological and/or learning disability that may have an impact upon your performance in this course, appropriate accommodations can be made on an individualized, as-needed basis after the needs, circumstances and documentation have been evaluated by the appropriate office on campus. The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is located in 212 Memorial Hall. Telephone: 516-463-7074. Please see the Hofstra Guide to Pride, or [visit their site](#). All disability-related information will be kept confidential.