

BAYLOR UNIVERSITY  
Department of Political Science  
Advanced Graduate Seminar in Political Philosophy

*Nietzsche*

PSC 5393  
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Office Hrs:  
T/W: 11-1, or by appt.

Fall 2008  
B 306  
Ext: 6062



“It is only beginning with me that the earth knows *große Politik*.”  
~Friedrich Nietzsche

**STRUCTURE OF COURSE:**

*Participation & Directing Discussion*—

This course will be conducted seminar-style and therefore structured around your participation. Class time will be largely devoted to our common deliberation on a selection of Nietzsche’s texts drawn from the different stages of his philosophical career. Coming to class prepared and participating meaningfully in our deliberations on these works is therefore essential to success in this course. My hope is that you too will assume a personal responsibility for the success of this endeavor, which will express itself in the investment you make preparing for and engaging in each session of the course. Regular and significant contributions to classroom activity, moreover, will inevitably factor into my evaluations of your performance in the course. By demonstrating a commitment to the course through such participation, you ensure yourself the benefit of the doubt in my assessments of individual assignments and/or of overall performance in the course.

Moreover, each student will take a turn at conducting our classroom conversation and common study by signing up to lead us through **an analysis and interpretation of one of Zarathustra’s Speeches**, during our unit on *Thus Spake Zarathustra*. Your performance in this capacity will be evaluated and the score awarded will count for **20% of the final grade**.

**Course Calendar**  
**Nietzsche Seminar**  
**PSC 5393.F08**

August

28 Introduction to Course; *Birth of Tragedy* (BT): “Attempt at Self-Criticism,” pp. 17-27; “Preface to Richard Wagner,” pp. 31-32; secs. 1-5, pp. 33-52.

September

4 BT: secs. 6-16, pp. 52-104. “What is Dionysian? Nietzsche & the Greeks,” chp. 6 from Tracy B. Strong, *Friedrich Nietzsche & the Politics of Transfiguration* [on Blackboard].

11 BT: secs. 17-25, pp. 104-44. “Tragedy, Music, and Aesthetics,” chp. 8 from M.S. Silk & J.P. Stern, *Nietzsche On Tragedy* [on Blackboard].

18 *The Case of Wagner*: pp. 155-92, including the Postscript, Second Postscript, and Epilogue. “Wagner and the Birth of Tragedy,” chp. 5 from Ronald Hayman, *A Critical Life: Nietzsche* [on Blackboard].

25 *On the Advantage & Disadvantage of History for Life*: pp. 7-64. “History and the Present Age,” chp. 3 from Karl Jaspers, *Nietzsche: An Introduction to the Understanding of his Philosophical Activity* [On Blackboard].

October

2 *On the Genealogy of Morals* (GM): Preface, 1-8, pp. 15-23; 1<sup>st</sup> Essay, 1-17, pp. 24-56; 2<sup>nd</sup> Essay, 1-7, pp. 57-69. Michel Foucault, “Nietzsche, Genealogy, History,” from Paul Rabinow (ed.), *The Foucault Reader* [On Blackboard].

9 GM: 2<sup>nd</sup> Essay, 8-25, pp. 70-96; 3<sup>rd</sup> Essay, 1-14, pp. 97-125. “Nietzsche’s Genealogy of Science: Morality and the Values of Modernity,” chp. 5 from Babette Babich, *Nietzsche’s Philosophy of Science* [On Blackboard]

16 GM: 3<sup>rd</sup> Essay, 15-28, pp. 125-63. *Ecce Homo* (EH): Preface – “Why I write such good books,” pp. 217-69. Arthur C. Danto, “Some Remarks on *The Genealogy of Morals*,” chp. 3 in Richard Schacht (ed.), *Nietzsche, Genealogy, Morality* [On Blackboard].

23 EH: Birth of Tragedy – “Why I am destiny,” pp. 270-335. *Thus Spake Zarathustra* (TSZ): “Zarathustra’s Prologue,” pp. 3-16. “Zarathustra’s Prologue: A Hermit’s Folly” from Laurence Lambert, *Nietzsche’s Teaching: An Interpretation of Thus Spake Zarathustra* [On Blackboard].

30 TSZ: Part I, “On the Three Metamorphoses” – “On Love of the Neighbor,” pp. 16-45. Daniel Conway, “Solving the Problem of Socrates: Nietzsche’s Zarathustra as Political Irony” in *Political Theory* 16:2 (1998) [On Blackboard].

November

4 **Paper Abstracts Due by 12:00pm.**

- 6 TSZ: Part I, “On the Way of the Creator” - “On the Bestowing Virtue,” pp. 46-59; Part II, “The Child with the Mirror” – “On Poets,” pp. 63-102.
- 13 TSZ: Part II, “On Great Events” – “The stillest Hour,” pp. 102-17; Part III, “The Wanderer” – “On the Spirit of Gravity,” pp. 121-56. Hans-Georg Gadamer, “The Drama of Zarathustra,” chp. 9 in M.A. Gillespie and T. B. Strong (eds.), *Nietzsche’s New Seas* [On Blackboard].
- 20 TSZ: Part III, “On Old and New Tablets,” pp. 156-87; Part IV, “The Honey Sacrifice” – “The Magician,” pp. 191-209. Robert Pippin, “Irony & Affirmation in *Nietzsche’s Thus Spake Zarathustra*,” chp. 2 in M.A. Gillespie and T. B. Strong (eds.), *Nietzsche’s New Seas* [On Blackboard].
- 27 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

#### December

- 4 TSZ: Part IV, “Retired” – “The Sign,” pp. 209-66. Tracy B. Strong, “Nietzsche’s political misappropriation,” chp. 4 in Bernd Magnus & Kathleen M. Higgins, *The Cambridge Companion to Nietzsche* [On Blackboard].
- 8 **Seminar Papers due by 12:00pm.**

#### *Attendance*—

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class session. Our class is relatively small and meets only once per week. Therefore, I am going to insist that everyone do their very best to attend every class session. To receive above a C grade for the course students can miss no more than 2 (**two**) class sessions (including make-up sessions). In the case of intractable, extenuating circumstances that make it impossible for you to avoid missing more than two class sessions I will expect you to communicate with me about the nature of your circumstances at the earliest possible opportunity. My readiness to accommodate your situation will be commensurate to your attempts to accommodate that of the course. In accordance with Baylor University policy, moreover, **any student missing more than 4 scheduled class meetings (i.e., 25%) will fail the course, regardless of performance.** Your attendance will likewise factor into my evaluation of your commitment to and participation (discussed above) in the course.

#### *Seminar Paper*—

Each student will be required to complete a **seminar paper** to be handed in by the last day of classes (Dec.8). Needless to say, any composition submitted for credit must be entirely your own work. *Plagiarism, whether from a published source or a made-for-sale essay, is a violation of Baylor’s honor code and will result in an F for the course.*

**The seminar paper** should be approximately 20 pages in length and should deal with one or more of the texts for this course. It may be primarily exegetical in nature, providing an interpretative commentary on a given text, or some part thereof, or it may explicate a doctrine, theme, or line of argument running through several of Nietzsche’s works. On the other hand, you may choose to explore a problem, set of questions, and/or line of inquiry that is germane to Nietzsche’s thought and to the subject

matter of this course. The paper should have a well-conceived thesis, which it prosecutes cogently with evidence drawn effectively and efficiently from the relevant texts by Nietzsche. The paper should also show evidence of having consulted relevant secondary sources. And it should conform to the conventions prescribed by the *Chicago Manual of Style*. I want to consult with each student his/her project and plans for the seminar paper and will make arrangements to meet with each student to discuss this project as the semester proceeds. Each student **must submit for my approval a formal abstract of the paper (1 or 2 paragraphs)** that explains the project you propose to undertake—e.g., the thesis or argument you intend to prosecute, detailing at least in broad terms how you intend to structure the paper in order to accomplish your aims. Your abstract should include a brief bibliography of secondary sources you expect to consult. **Abstracts are due no later than Nov. 4. No seminar papers will be accepted for which abstracts have not first been received and approved.** The abstract will count for **10% of the final grade**, while the seminar paper itself will be worth **70% of the final grade**.

### **GRADE SCALE:**

100 – 92% = A  
91 – 90% = A-  
89 – 86% = B+  
85 – 82% = B

81 – 80% = B-  
79 – 76% = C+  
75 – 72% = C  
71 – 70% = C-

69 – 60% = D  
59 – 0% = F