

St. Jerome's University in the University of Waterloo  
Department of Philosophy

## Syllabus

### Winter Term 2020

Course: PHIL 286J/GER 286: Great German Thinkers: Section 001

Instructor: Professor Nikolaj Zunic

Class Times: 1:00 pm – 2:20 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays

Class Location: SJ1 3016

Office: SH 2003 [Sweeney Hall on the St. Jerome's campus]

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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays: 9:30 am – 10:00 am and 4:00 pm – 4:30 pm;  
and by appointment.

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### Required Texts and Readings

There are two books which students are expected to purchase/acquire for this course:

**Friedrich Nietzsche, *Basic Writings of Nietzsche*, translated by Walter Kaufmann and introduction by Peter Gay. Modern Library, 2000. ISBN: 0-679-78339-3.**

**Friedrich Nietzsche, *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, translated by R. J. Hollingdale. Penguin: 1969. ISBN: 0-14-044118-2.**

Both books can be purchased at the University of Waterloo bookstore.

Additional shorter readings will be provided to students on the Learn site.

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### Course Description

For the winter term 2020 **PHIL 286J/GER 286: Great German Thinkers** will focus on the philosophy of Friedrich Nietzsche (1844 – 1900). Nietzsche is an exciting and provocative thinker who has exerted an enormous influence on the 20<sup>th</sup>-century until the present. Not only is he a noteworthy philosopher in his own right, but he inspired many artists and intellectuals in a variety

of disciplines, from psychology and psychiatry to history and politics. It is essential, therefore, to be familiar with Nietzsche's thought in order to understand the social, political and intellectual climate that we currently live in.

This course will introduce students to Nietzsche's most important writings. These works include *The Birth of Tragedy* (1872), *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* (1883-1885), *Beyond Good and Evil* (1886), *On the Genealogy of Morals* (1887), *The Case of Wagner* (1888), *Ecce Homo* (1888) and selections from other works such as *Human, All too Human* (1878), *Mixed Opinions and Maxims* (1879), *The Wanderer and His Shadow* (1880), *The Dawn* (1881), and *The Gay Science* (1882).

Not only are Nietzsche's writings full of original insights and creative genius, but he is a very readable philosopher. His writing is clear and direct and immensely interesting. However, concealed beneath the explicitness of his language is a depth of intricate meaning that demands vigorous thinking to plumb. In this way Nietzsche is a paradoxical thinker: approachable, yet difficult to fully understand.

Some of the main doctrines that we will discuss in Nietzsche's corpus include the following: the distinction between the Apollinian and Dionysian drives; the revaluation of all values; the death of God and Nietzsche's critique of religion, especially Christianity; the rejection of western philosophy; the idea of the Superman; the sources of artistic creation; notions of life, health and decadence; the historical way of philosophizing; the advent of nihilism; and the subversion of traditional morality.

We will examine the many influences in Nietzsche's thought, from the ancient Greeks and modern philosophers, especially Socrates, Kant and Schopenhauer. Additionally, we will look at the many ways that Nietzsche has influenced thinkers and movements after him, particularly in psychology (e.g. Freud, Jung), art and literature (e.g. Thomas Mann, Rainer Maria Rilke), philosophy (e.g. Martin Heidegger, Jacques Derrida) and in broader intellectual, social and political movements (e.g. postmodernism, existentialism, atheism, secularism, and even Nazism).

Throughout our engagement with the philosophy of Nietzsche we will hopefully learn how to think and philosophize in a more creative and original way. For despite the misleading caricature of Nietzsche as an intemperate radical, he was always and consistently concerned to think deeply about the most important topics, and this is why he should be regarded as one of the greatest philosophers.

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### Format of the Course

This is a lecture course and as such the professor will discuss the material contained in the readings and will expand on the subject-matter in his lectures. However, students are strongly encouraged to ask questions and to participate in class discussions.

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## Objectives

- To introduce students to the main writings and ideas of Friedrich Nietzsche.
- To recognize how Nietzsche has influenced our contemporary world.
- To learn how to think in the spirit of Nietzsche's philosophy.

## Schedule

The following is a weekly schedule of the classes for this course. The readings which will be discussed each week are listed. Students are strongly advised to read the prescribed material at the beginning of each week so that the lectures are more readily understood and pertinent questions may be posed.

**Note: This is a tentative schedule and is subject to change.**

\**Basic Writings of Nietzsche* is abbreviated to BWN.

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### Week 1

January 6 and 8

Introduction to the course.  
*The Birth of Tragedy*: sections 1-15  
BWN, pp. 31-98

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### Week 2

January 13 and 15

*The Birth of Tragedy*: sections 16-25  
BWN, pp. 99-144

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### Week 3

January 20 and 22

*Seventy-Five Aphorisms*  
BWN, pp. 147-178  
Additional excerpts from *The Gay Science*: posted to Learn  
Martin Heidegger, "The Word of Nietzsche: 'God is Dead'": posted to Learn

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### Week 4

January 27 and 29

*Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, Part 1: pp. 39-104

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### Week 5

February 3 and 5

*Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, Parts 2 and 3: pp. 107-247

***Test #1 will take place on February 5.***

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Week 6 February 10 and 12	<i>Thus Spoke Zarathustra</i> , Part 4: pp. 251-336
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Week 7 February 17 and 19	READING WEEK – NO CLASSES
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Week 8 February 24 and 26	<i>Beyond Good and Evil</i> , Parts 1-5 BWN, pp. 199-308  <b><i>Essay #1 is due on February 24.</i></b>
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Week 9 March 2 and 4	<i>Beyond Good and Evil</i> , Parts 6-9 and “From High Mountains: Aftersong” BWN, pp. 311-435
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Week 10 March 9 and 11	<i>On the Genealogy of Morals</i> , First and Second Essays BWN, pp. 439-532
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Week 11 March 16 and 18	<i>On the Genealogy of Morals</i> , Third Essay BWN, pp. 533-599
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Week 12 March 23 and 25	<i>The Case of Wagner</i> BWN, pp. 603-653  <b><i>Test #2 will take place on March 23</i></b>
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Week 13 March 30 and April 1	<i>Ecce Homo</i> BWN, pp. 657-791  <b><i>April 1 is the last class.</i></b> <b><i>The final exam will be discussed on this day.</i></b> <b><i>Essay #2 is due on April 1.</i></b>
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### Assignments

1. **Tests:** There will be two in-class tests based on the content of the readings and lectures. The tests will not only assess one's understanding of the course material, but will also be an opportunity for each student to express his or her own positions and perspectives on the issues discussed in the course. The format for each test will be two questions which will require reflective, essay responses. Each test is worth 15% of the final grade.
2. **Essays:** There will be two essays assigned in this course. Each essay is worth 20% of the final grade and is expected to be 5 – 8 double-spaced pages in length. The instructions for these essay assignments will be explained in detail in class.
3. **Final Examination:** A comprehensive examination that will assess your understanding of the ideas and doctrines studied in the course which will take place during the normal university exam period at the end of the term. The exam is worth 30% of the final grade.

### Grading Scheme

<b>ASSIGNMENT</b>	<b>DUE DATE – DATE SCHEDULED</b>	<b>VALUE</b>
Test #1	February 5, 2020	15%
Test #2	March 23, 2020	15%
Essay #1	February 24, 2020	20%
Essay #2	April 1, 2020	20%
Final Examination	Scheduled during university exam period: April 8-25, 2020	30%

## Course Policies

1. **ATTENDANCE:** Students are expected to attend class regularly.
2. **CLASS NOTES:** It is crucial to take complete notes in class. It is the student's responsibility to record relevant and important information which is discussed in class. Students will be assessed on the lecture material which may not necessarily be contained in the readings. Furthermore, the professor's lectures will not be made available for copying. If you are absent from class please contact a classmate for the lecture notes.
3. **DUE DATES:** The essays are due at the beginning of class on the dates given above.
4. **LATENESS PENALTY:** The penalty for late assignments is 3% deducted from the grade of the paper for each weekday that the paper is late.
5. **ABSOLUTE DEADLINE:** The maximum allowable amount of time for submitting essays beyond the due date is one week.
6. **NO MAKE-UPS/ALTERNATIVE TESTS:** The tests must be written when they are originally administered in class. No make-up or alternative tests will be permitted. The only exception to this rule will be if a student misses a test because of a medical condition, such as an illness, or because of some serious and compelling predicament. In the case of a medical problem an official document from a physician must be presented to the instructor in order to qualify for an exemption to this rule.
7. **EXTRA HELP:** If you are having difficulties in this course and are concerned about your performance, it is your responsibility to communicate these concerns to the professor in a timely fashion. Do not wait until the course is over to contact the professor about your final grade!
8. **POLITE BEHAVIOUR:** Students are expected to be courteous and civil in their behavior both in and outside of class. Unruly and rude behavior will not be tolerated.
9. **E-MAILS:** When you communicate with the instructor by means of e-mail be sure to use proper etiquette and a formal style of writing. For example, no e-mails with the salutation "Hey!" (a very popular opening for university students). Moreover, you should write in a legible and grammatically correct manner. Any correspondence which is vulgar, informal, or replete with spelling and grammatical mistakes will not be answered.
10. **LAPTOPS, CELLPHONES, TECHNOLOGY:** It is desirable that a proper pedagogical and learning atmosphere be created in the classroom. Therefore, it is requested of all students that various technologies not be used during the class. These include laptop computers, cellphones, and Ipods. Any exceptions to this rule will be made on a case by case basis. For example, if you are registered with AccessAbility Services and you require the use of a laptop to take notes, an accommodation can certainly be made for you. But please do see the professor about any such request.

## **Important Information**

**Academic Integrity:** To maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo and its Affiliated and Federated Institutions of Waterloo (AFIW) are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility.

**Academic Integrity Office (UW):** A resource for students and instructors.

<https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/>

**Discipline:** A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under the **St. Jerome’s University Policy on Student Discipline:** [https://www.sju.ca/sites/default/files/PLCY\\_AOM\\_Student-Discipline\\_20131122-SJUSCApproved.pdf](https://www.sju.ca/sites/default/files/PLCY_AOM_Student-Discipline_20131122-SJUSCApproved.pdf)

For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to **University of Waterloo Policy 71 - Student Discipline:**

<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat-general-counsel/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71>

**Grievance:** A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of their university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read the **St. Jerome’s University Policy on Student Petitions and Grievances:**

[https://www.sju.ca/sites/default/files/PLCY\\_AOM\\_Student-Petitions-and-Grievances\\_20151211-SJUSCApproved.pdf](https://www.sju.ca/sites/default/files/PLCY_AOM_Student-Petitions-and-Grievances_20151211-SJUSCApproved.pdf)

**Appeals:** A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under the St. Jerome’s University Policy on Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or the St. Jerome’s University Policy on Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read the **St. Jerome’s University Policy on Student Appeals:**

[https://www.sju.ca/sites/default/files/PLCY\\_AOM\\_Student-Appeals\\_20131122-SJUSCApproved.pdf](https://www.sju.ca/sites/default/files/PLCY_AOM_Student-Appeals_20131122-SJUSCApproved.pdf)

**Note for Students with Disabilities:** The AccessAbility Services office (<https://uwaterloo.ca/accessability-services/>), located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (1401), collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS office at the beginning of each academic term.