

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

POLITICAL SCIENCE 485H1F/2027H1F

TOPICS IN POLITICAL THEORY: NIETZSCHE'S *BEYOND GOOD AND EVIL*

FALL SESSION 2023

Professor C. Orwin (clifford.orwin@utoronto.ca)

Our principal text this semester will be Nietzsche's *Beyond Good and Evil: Prelude to a Philosophy of the Future*, the most widely read of his mature works and arguably the most perfect. The first of the series of works following *Thus Spake Zarathustra*, it aims to draw the reader back to that indigestible mass, but as its style could not be more different, so too it boasts a distinct aim. In *Ecce Homo* Nietzsche declared that with the completion of *Zarathustra* the yes-saying part of his task had been solved: "the turn had come for the No-saying, *No-doing* part...the revaluation of all values so far, the great war." He went on to describe *BG&E* as "in all essentials *a critique of modernity*, not excluding the modern sciences, the modern arts, and even modern politics – along with pointers to a contrary type that is as little modern as possible– a noble, Yes-saying type." In our reading we will try to do justice to this dual movement of the book. We will draw heavily on Laurence Lampert's commentary *Nietzsche's Task*, on his controversial pro-Nietzschean polemic *Leo Strauss and Nietzsche*, and on Strauss's own "A Note on the Plan of Nietzsche's *Beyond Good and Evil*" – Strauss's only work devoted to a work of Nietzsche's. We will also read Michael Gillespie's recent *Nietzsche's Final Teaching*, thus availing ourselves of a third outlook on Nietzsche differing from the other two. Students will also be expected to acquaint themselves with at least one other major work of Nietzsche's and with three other works of secondary literature.

A warning: class sessions will be grueling and will run for the entire allotted span, with two breaks to give us all some breathers.

Recommended Translations (available at the textbook store).

Nietzsche, Friedrich. *On the Advantages and Disadvantages of History for Life*. Translated by Peter Preuss. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1980.

_____. *Beyond Good and Evil. Prelude to a Philosophy of the Future*. Translated by Walter Kaufmann. New York: Vintage Books, 1966. There are more recent translations, but in my opinion this remains the best one.

Assigned Secondary Reading, on reserve at Robarts Library

Gillespie, Michael Allen. *Nietzsche's Final Teaching*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2017. B3317 .G5155 2017X The most recent and presumably the final statement of one of North America's leading scholars of Nietzsche. Like the Löwith volume below, discusses the big issues announced in *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* (e.g. the superman and the eternal recurrence) that hover over *BGE*. **ELECTRONIC RESOURCE**

Lampert, Laurence. *Nietzsche's Task: An Interpretation of Beyond Good and Evil*. New Haven: Yale U.P., 2001. B3313 .J43 J465 2001X A sympathetic exposition by a diehard defender of Nietzsche. **AVAILABLE AT THE TEXTBOOK STORE. ELECTRONIC RESOURCE**

_____. *Leo Strauss and Nietzsche*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995. B3317 .L254 1996X A highly controversial interpretation of Strauss's attitude toward Nietzsche and a spirited defense of the latter. **ELECTRONIC RESOURCE**

Löwith, Karl. *Nietzsche's philosophy of the eternal recurrence of the same*. Translated by J. Harvey Lomax; foreword by Bernd Magnus. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1997. B3317 .L6413 1997X

Strauss, Leo. "A Note on the Plan of Nietzsche's *Beyond Good and Evil*," *Interpretation* 3 (Winter 1973), 97-113 (1973). JA1 .I6 Republished in Lampert, *Leo Strauss and Nietzsche* as well as in Strauss, *Studies in Platonic Political Philosophy*, ed. Thomas L. Pangle (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1983) (JC71 .P62 S87 1983), and in various on line versions.

Further Secondary Readings (available, usually in multiple copies, at our various libraries).

Acampora, Christy Davis and Keith Ansell-Pearson. *Nietzsche's Beyond Good and Evil. A Reader's Guide*. London: Bloomsbury Continuum, 2011. One of several works on this list intended primarily for students. B3313 .J43 A23 2011x **ELECTRONIC RESOURCE**

Ansell-Pearson, Keith, ed. *Nietzsche and Political Thought*. London: Bloomsbury, 2013. B3317 .N449 2013X **ELECTRONIC RESOURCE**

Beiner, Ronald. *Dangerous minds: Nietzsche, Heidegger, and the return of the far right*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2018. B3317 .B45 2018X **ELECTRONIC RESOURCE** In which my esteemed emeritus colleague deplores Nietzsche's influence on the so-called Alt Right.

Berkowitz, Peter. *Nietzsche: the Ethics of an Immoralist*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1995. B3318 .E9 B46 1995X Sympathetic but critical, and a scathing critique of the "aesthetic" and postmodernist interpretations of Nietzsche.

Burnham, Douglas. *Reading Nietzsche: an Analysis of Beyond Good and Evil*. Montréal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2007. B3313 .J433 B87 2009 **ELECTRONIC RESOURCE**

Clark, Maudemarie and David Dudrick. *The soul of Nietzsche's Beyond Good and Evil*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2012. B3313 .J43 C53 2012 **ELECTRONIC RESOURCE**

Dannhauser, Werner. *Nietzsche's View of Socrates*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1974. B317 .D25

Deleuze, Gilles. *Nietzsche and Philosophy*. Translated by Hugh Tomlinson with an introduction by Michael Hardt. New York: Columbia University Press, 2006. B3317 .D413 2006 The most influential and intelligent "postmodernist" reading of Nietzsche.

Detwiler, Bruce. *Nietzsche and the Politics of Aristocratic Radicalism*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1990. JC233 .N52 D48 1990 A useful effort to reconstruct Nietzsche's political teaching.

Devigne, Robert. "Plato, Nietzsche, and Strauss." *The Political Science Reviewer* 26 (1997), 397-433. JA1 .P73 A trenchant and wide-ranging critique of Lampert's book on Strauss and Nietzsche.

Drury, Shadia. *The Political Thought of Leo Strauss*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1988 (Updated edition, 2005). JC251 .S8 D78 2005 Strauss as (dangerous) Nietzschean.

Franco, Paul. *Rousseau, Nietzsche, and the Image of the Human*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2021 A provocative comparison of these two greatest modern critics of modern society and politics. B2137 .F73 (SMC AND VIC) **ELECTRONIC RESOURCE**

Heidegger, Martin. *Nietzsche*. Translated and with an analysis by David Farrell Krell. San Francisco: Harper Collins Paperback, 1991. 4 vols. B3317 .H413 If you can understand it, a sweeping interpretation by Nietzsche's greatest successor and critic, which rests on the (highly debatable) premise that Nietzsche's definitive writings were his late unfinished ones.

Heller, Erich. *The Importance of Nietzsche. Ten Essays*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1988 B3317 .H43 1988

Hutter, Horst. *Shaping the Future: Nietzsche's New Regime of the Soul and Its Ascetic Practices*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2006. B3317 .H88 2006 A stimulating treatment by a recently deceased Canadian devotee of Nietzsche which stresses the influence on his thought of classical notions of philosophy as *askesis* or discipline.

Jensen, Pamela. "Nietzsche and liberation: the prelude to a philosophy of the future." *Interpretation* 6.2 (1977), 79-106. JA1 .I6 A commentary on *BGE* by a student of Strauss.

Kaag, John. *Hiking with Nietzsche: on becoming who you are*. New York : Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2018. Victoria University E.J. Pratt Library. B3317 .K3195 2018

Kaufmann, Walter. *Nietzsche: Philosopher, Psychologist, Antichrist*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1956 (2013, with a new Introduction by Alexander Nehamas). Nietzsche as liberal; the work that re-established the respectability of Nietzsche studies in America.

ELECTRONIC RESOURCE

Lomax, J. Harvey. *The Paradox of Philosophical Education: Nietzsche's New Nobility and the Eternal Recurrence in Beyond Good and Evil*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2003. B3313 .J43 L66 2003X

Löwith, Karl. *From Hegel to Nietzsche: The Revolution in Nineteenth Century Thought*. Translated by David E. Green. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1964 (Garland reprint, 1984). B803 .L623 1984

Metzger, Jeffrey, ed. *Nietzsche, Nihilism, and the Philosophy of the Future*. London: Continuum, 2009. B3318 .N54 N55. **ELECTRONIC RESOURCE** Metzger was an alumnus of this course and wrote an excellent dissertation (and subsequently a book) on Nietzsche's *Genealogy of Morals*. The listed volume (to which he contributes an essay as well as editing) treats a major theme in *BGE* as throughout Nietzsche's work.

Nehamas, Alexander. *Nietzsche: Life as Literature*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1985. B3317 .N425 1985 The "postmodernist" and "aestheticist" interpretation of Nietzsche most influential in North America.

Pangle, Thomas L. "Nihilism and Modern Democracy in the Thought of Nietzsche," in Kenneth L. Deutsch and Walter Soffer, eds., *The Crisis of Liberal Democracy*. Albany: SUNY Press, 1987 (pp. 180-211). JC251 .S76 C75 1987

Pippin, Robert B. *Introductions to Nietzsche*. Cambridge: Cambridge U.P., 2012. B3317 .I67 2012 SMC Includes a general introduction, by Pippin, a leading professor of modern philosophy, and an introduction to *BGE* by Rolf-Peter Horstmann. **ELECTRONIC RESOURCE**

_____. *Nietzsche: Psychology and First Philosophy*. Chicago: U. of Chicago Press, 2010. B3317 .P558 2010X

Safranski, Rüdiger. *Nietzsche: A Philosophical Biography*, trans. Shelley Frisch. New York: W.W. Norton, 2002. B3317 .S2413 2002X Probably the best biography in English.

Smith, Steven B. *Reading Leo Strauss: Philosophy, Politics, Judaism*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2006. JA71 .S65 2006 An attempt to disentangle Strauss from Nietzsche, once and for all. **ELECTRONIC RESOURCE**

Sommer, [Andreas Urs](#). *Kommentar zu Nietzsches Jenseits von Gut und Böse* (= Heidelberger Akademie der Wissenschaften (Hg.): *Historischer und kritischer Kommentar zu Friedrich Nietzsches Werken*, Bd. 5/1). XVII + 939 pages. Berlin / Boston: Walter de Gruyter 2016. B3313 .J43 S66 2016Y The comprehensive standard commentary on *Beyond Good and Evil* – only available in German (probably because no-one has wanted to translate the 939 pages into English).

Southwell, Gareth. *A Beginner's Guide to Nietzsche's Beyond Good and Evil*. Malden, MA : Wiley-Blackwell, 2009. B3313 .J44 S68 2009X **ELECTRONIC RESOURCE**

Staten, Henry. *Nietzsche's Voice*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1990. B3317 .S667 1990 A sensitive postmodernist reading of Nietzsche, especially attentive to the nuances of his tone.

Strauss, Leo. Strauss's course on *BGE* taught at St. John's College in 1971-72 is available on line at the Leo Strauss Center at the University of Chicago, as is a course at Chicago from 1967 partly devoted to it. These courses are accompanied by excellent introductions by Mark Blitz and Richard Velkley, respectively. <https://leostrausscenter.uchicago.edu/course/nietzsche-beyond-good-and-evil-1971-72-st-john%E2%80%99s-college-annapolis>

Strong, Tracy B. *Friedrich Nietzsche and the Politics of Transfiguration*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1975. B3317 .S76 A leading leftist interpretation of Nietzsche's politics.

Vattimo, Gianni. *Dialogue with Nietzsche*. Translated by William McCuaig. New York: Columbia U.P., 2006. B3317 .V359313 2006X A provocative treatment by a leading postmodernist thinker.

Zuckert, Catherine. *Postmodern Platos. Nietzsche, Heidegger, Gadamer, Strauss, Derrida*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996. B395 .Z78 1996X Because, as Nietzsche would be the first to admit, you just can't keep Plato out of it.

Course Assignments and Marking Scheme

POL 485H1F (the undergraduate course). One essay of 1375 words due Friday, October 13, one of 2750 words due Monday, November 27, a take-home exam to be distributed the afternoon of Friday, December 1, due by 2 PM on Monday, December 4. The first essay will be worth 20% of the final mark, the second one will be worth 40%, the take-home exam will be worth 25%, and attendance and participation will count 15%.

POL 2027H1F (the graduate course). One essay of 2000 words due Friday, October 13, one of 5500 words due Monday, December 15; a take-home exam to be distributed the afternoon of Friday, December 1, due at 2 PM on Monday, December 4. The first essay will be worth 20% of

the final mark, the second one will be worth 40%, and the take-home exam will be worth 40%.

In each of your essays you will be expected to cite at least six secondary sources (i.e., books or articles, at least three of which, however, must be books). You're graduate students, remember? (Or, even more pitiful, undergraduates trying to pass for graduate students.)

In each of your essays you must remain within the prescribed word limit; the surplus words will go unread.

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR ESSAYS ELECTRONICALLY THROUGH THE QUERCUS WEBSITE, THEREBY SPARING CANADA'S FORESTS.

N.B. In the graduate course as in the undergraduate one, no extensions will be granted on written work except for good cause. In keeping with Nietzsche's theory of punishment, however, according to which every crime has its price and punishment was originally nothing more than an exaction of that price (cf. *On the Genealogy of Morals*, Second Essay), extensions will be readily available to those willing to purchase them. The price will be 3 points, plus 2 additional points per day beginning with the first, off your mark for that assignment. (If you are one day late you will lose 5 points; two days late, 7; etc.). This proviso does not apply to the take-home exam, which will not be accepted if late.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY ISSUES (READ THESE PARAGRAPHS SIX OR SEVEN TIMES)

The University of Toronto treats cases of academic misconduct very seriously. Academic integrity is a fundamental value of learning and scholarship at the UofT. Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in this academic community ensures that your UofT degree is valued and respected as a true signifier of your individual academic achievement.

The University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters outlines the behaviours that constitute academic misconduct, the processes for addressing academic offences, and the penalties that may be imposed. You are expected to be familiar with the contents of this document. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

In papers and assignments:

- Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
- Making up sources or facts.

- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment (this includes working in groups on assignments that are supposed to be individual work).

On tests and exams:

- Using or possessing any unauthorized aid, including a cell phone.
- Looking at someone else's answers.
- Letting someone else look at your answers.
- Misrepresenting your identity.
- Submitting an altered test for re-grading.

Misrepresentation:

- Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including (but not limited to) doctor's notes.
- Falsifying institutional documents or grades.

On generative artificial intelligence:

- The use of generative artificial intelligence tools or apps for assignments in this course, including tools like ChatGPT and other AI writing or coding assistants, is prohibited.
- The knowing use of generative artificial intelligence tools, including ChatGPT and other AI writing and coding assistants, for the completion of, or to support the completion of, an examination, term test, assignment, or any other form of academic assessment, may be considered an academic offense in this course.
- Representing as one's own an idea, or expression of an idea, that was AI-generated may be considered an academic offense in this course.
- Students may not copy or paraphrase from any generative artificial intelligence applications, including ChatGPT and other AI writing and coding assistants, for the purpose of completing assignments in this course.
- The use of generative artificial intelligence tools and apps is strictly prohibited in all course assignments unless explicitly stated otherwise by the instructor in this course. This includes ChatGPT and other AI writing and coding assistants. Use of generative AI in this course may be considered use of an unauthorized aid, which

is a form of cheating.

- This course policy is designed to promote your learning and intellectual development and to help you reach course learning outcomes.

MR ORWIN'S OFFICE HOURS

Wednesdays, from 7 PM to 8 PM, at Carr Hall 309; Thursdays, from 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM, at SS 3055.

SYLLABUS OF READINGS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

On the Advantage and Disadvantage of History for Life

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

BGE: Preface; On the Prejudices of the Philosophers

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

BGE: The Free Spirit

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3

BGE: What is Religious

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10

BGE: Epigrams and Interludes

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17

BGE: Natural History of Morals

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24

BGE: We Scholars

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31

BGE: Our Virtues

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7

READING WEEK: NO SEMINAR

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

BGE: Peoples and Fatherlands

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21

BGE: What is Noble; From High Mountains

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Catching up

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

Catching up