Our 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. The will be pitched to the attention span and presumed scholarly accomplishments of graduate students and as always our course motto will be that of the Oregon Trail: THE COWARDS NEVER STARTED AND THE WEAK DIED ALONG THE WAY.

Recommended Translations (available at the Bob Miller Bookroom, 180 Bloor West)


______. *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 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*.


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


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.


**ELECTRONIC RESOURCE**


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](https://leostrausscenter.uchicago.edu/course/nietzsche-beyond-good-and-evil-1971-72-st-john%E2%80%99s-college-annapolis)

**Course Assignments and Marking Scheme**

**POL 485H1S (the undergraduate course).** One essay of 1375 words due Friday, February 8, 13, one of 2750 words due Monday, April 1, a take-home exam to be distributed the afternoon of Friday, March 22, due by 2 PM on Monday, March 25. The first essay will be worth 10% of the final mark, the second one will be worth 40%, the take-home exam will be worth 40%, and participation will count 10%.

**POL 2027H1S (the graduate course).** One essay of 2000 words due Friday, February 15, one of 5500 words due Monday, April 15; a take-home exam to be distributed the afternoon of Friday, March 22, due at 2 PM on Monday, March 25. 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.

You are responsible for informing yourself of and abiding by the University's policies on plagiarism and other academic offenses.

MR ORWIN'S OFFICE HOURS
Thursdays, from 4:10 to 6, at Carr Hall 309 (416-926-1300, ext. 3277).

SYLLABUS OF READINGS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 8
On the Advantage and Disadvantage of History for Life

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15
BGE: Preface; On the Prejudices of the Philosophers

TUESDAY, JANUARY 22
BGE: The Free Sprit

TUESDAY, JANUARY 29
BGE: What is Religious
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

*BGE: Epigrams and Interludes*

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

*BGE: Natural History of Morals*

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

READING WEEK: NO SEMINAR

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

*BGE: We Scholars*

TUESDAY, MARCH 5

*BGE: Our Virtues*

TUESDAY, MARCH 12

*BGE: Peoples and Fatherlands*

TUESDAY, MARCH 19

*BGE: What is Noble: From High Mountains*

TUESDAY, MARCH 26

Catching up

TUESDAY, APRIL 2

Catching up