

Boğaziçi University  
Summer 2020

## **Nietzsche's Physio-Psychological Project**

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Type of Instruction: Online Lectures

Class Time: Monday 15:00-16:50, Tuesday 15:00-16:50, Wednesday 15:00-16:50

Course Load: 3.00 cr.

### **Course Description**

This course aims to explain and examine Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche's physio-psychological project by focusing on a number of key aspects of his reflection. The central component of Nietzsche's project which is "the transvaluation of all values" refers first of all to a change in the status of values in general, that is, moral arguments can no longer be considered as hypostases determined once and for all but as perspectives relating to various human types. Thus, the problem of value as it is formulated by Nietzsche raises a series of fundamental questions about the "immediate certainties" of the metaphysical tradition such as the subject, the will and causality. This course has three main objectives: the revaluation of the notions of the "metaphysical tradition" through Nietzsche's genealogical method, the analysis of Nietzsche's reconstitution of history and genealogy as a method of historical philosophizing, and finally the study of Nietzsche's philosophy of the future as the prescriptive dimension of his critical thinking.

### **Grading Options**

Pass/Fail or Letter Grade.

### **Course Requirements**

The final grade will be based on one midterm and one final with the following percentages:

Midterm 40%

Final 60%

### **Academic Integrity**

Dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated in this course. Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, fraud, and any failure to cite all materials and sources in your work. To get help on how to avoid plagiarism, see <http://www.buowl.boun.edu.tr/students/favoidingplagiarism.htm>.

## **Anti-Discrimination Policy**

The classroom will be free from all discrimination based on, including but not limited to, race, ethnicity, creed, religion, language, disability, gender, and sexual orientation. The students are expected to maintain this environment.

## **Make-up Exams**

If you request a make-up exam due to medical reasons you will be required to present relevant documentation.

## **Reading Schedule**

The schedule is tentative and subject to change. A reader with the assigned readings for each class day will be available for the students.

## **Plan**

### **MODULE 0: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE WORK OF NIETZSCHE**

- Nietzsche: Composer, philologist, philosopher, psychologist and “prophet”
- The palimpsest character of Nietzsche’s work
- Published works and posthumous fragments

### **MODULE 1: DECONSTRUCTION**

Nietzsche’s part of the project is often interpreted as “demystification” since he claims to have purified the philosophy of its myths by revealing the hidden significance of the fundamental concepts of the “metaphysical tradition”. This module aims to study this demystification, which constitute the deconstructive dimension of Nietzsche’s philosophy and to examine his “new psychology” with the focus on the notion of “will to power”.

- Concepts: prejudices about reality
- The value of the values, the value of the truth
- The psychology of error: will and causality
- The illusion of the subject
- Consciousness as epiphenomenon
- The psychology of drives
- The “new psychology”: morphology and doctrine of “will to power”.

### **Reading Material for MODULE 1**

Selection from Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil*

Selection from Nietzsche, *The Gay Science*

Selection from Nietzsche, *Human, All Too Human*

Nietzsche, *On Truth and Lie in an Extra-Moral Sense*

Selection from Nietzsche, *Twilight of the Idols*

Selection from Nietzsche, *The Wanderer and His Shadow*

## MODULE 2: RECONSTRUCTION

Nietzsche's "historical philosophy", interpreted as a remedy for "metaphysical philosophy", elucidates and secularizes history and reconstructs it on a non-teleological level. This module aims to examine this reconstruction and to understand genealogy as a genuine method of articulating history to philosophy.

- History, evolution, and "teleophobia" of Nietzsche
- The historical sense: a hypertrophied virtue or a virtue *sine qua non*?
- The redefinition of the domain of morals: relations of domination
- The psychology of resentment
- The genealogy of morals

### Reading Material for MODULE 2

Selection from Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil*

Selection from Nietzsche, *Daybreak*

Selection from Nietzsche, *Human, All Too Human II*

Selection from Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals*

Selection from Nietzsche, *Untimely Meditations II*

## MODULE 3: PROJECTION

Nietzsche, relying on the philosophical reconstruction of history and evolution, announces a future project that aims to "divide the history into two" in order to arrive at "grand emancipation". This module aims to discuss the physio-psychological aspects of Nietzsche's philosophy of the future.

- The physio-psychology of the future: grand health
- "New knowledge" and the transvaluation of all values
- Breeding: the strategy of grand politics
- The thought of eternal return: a cosmological thesis at the service of psychology

### Reading Material for MODULE 3

Nietzsche, *Antichrist*

Selection from Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil*

Selection from Nietzsche, *The Gay Science*

Selection from Nietzsche, *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*