

## PHIL 416

UBC's Point Grey Campus is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the xwməθkwəyəm (Musqueam) people. The land it is situated on has always been a place of learning for the Musqueam people, who for millennia have passed on in their culture, history, and traditions from one generation to the next on this site.

| Course Title, Time and Location   | Course Code Number | Credit Value |
|---|--------------------|--------------|
| Topics in 19th-Century Philosophy: Nietzsche<br>Mon, Wed, Fri 10-11 am<br>View in Workday | PHIL 416 001 W1    | 3 credits    |

| Course Instructor  | Contact Details       | Office Location | Office Hours    |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Dr. Willow Verkerk | willow.verkerk@ubc.ca | BUCH E 158      | Mon, Wed 3-4 pm |

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

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At a time when many of the cultural changes that define our age were first starting to emerge, Nietzsche was critiquing modern European values and seeking alternatives to invigorate individual and cultural health. His philosophical questioning grew out of a strong dissatisfaction with the effects of industrialization on individual character, interpersonal relationships, and cultural intelligence. Disappointed with consumerism and concerned with the loss of values due to the death of God, Nietzsche spoke of the creation of new values and new forms of human relationships to replace those in disrepair. Together, we will question Nietzsche's diagnoses of western metaphysics and morality and analyze the remedies he suggests for the "last human."

This course studies *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, and selections from his other texts, in order to learn about Nietzsche's most discussed concepts, such as the free spirit, the overhuman, the will to power, eternal recurrence, and *amor fati*. We will also investigate what Nietzsche writes about truth, the self, the political community, love, and friendship.

### LEARNING ACTIVITIES

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Students are expected to read the materials before class and come prepared to take part in class discussion. The schedule includes all of the readings which can be found in the assigned book (which can be found in the bookstore):

The main text is available through the bookstore:

Nietzsche, *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, trans. Graham Parkes, Oxford University Press (\$14.95).

Additional reading can be found in the LOCR or under the Modules section of the Canvas course page.

### ASSESSMENTS OF LEARNING

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Exam 30% posted October 4, Due October 11

Final Essay (3000-3500 words) 60% posted November 1; *Due December 6*  
Participation 10% (class attendance and participation in class discussion).  
Written assignments are submitted on Canvas.

SCHEDULE: MON, WED, FRI 10– 11 AM

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**Week 1: On Reading Nietzsche and Nietzsche's *Thus Spoke Zarathustra***

September 4: On How to Read Nietzsche/On How to Read *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*

***I: First Part, Thus Spoke Zarathustra***

September 6: READ Zarathustra's Prologue (concentrate on: "God is dead," the overhuman, and the last human)

**Week 2: On the Process of Overcoming and Camel Burdens**

Sept 9-13: READ from s. I On the Three Transformations to s. 6 On the Pale Criminal

**Week 3: Nietzsche's Critique of Culture and the Challenges of the Lion**

Sept 16-20: READ from s. 7 On Reading and Writing to s. 13 On Chastity

**Week 4: Friendship, Morality, and the Strength of the Solitary**

Sept 23- 27: READ from s. 14 On the Friend to s. 22 On the Bestowing Virtue

**September 30: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (no class)**

***II: Second Part, Thus Spoke Zarathustra***

**Week 5: On Wisdom, the Overhuman, and Virtue**

October 2-4: READ from s. 1 The Child With the Mirror to 5. On the Virtuous  
*Take Home Exam Posted October 4*

**Week 6: Take Home Exam**

Oct 7-11: No classes

*\*Take Home Exam Due October 11\**

**Holiday October 14- Thanksgiving Day**

**Week 7: Challenges of the Knowledge-Seeker and Self-Overcoming**

Oct 16-18: Read from s. 6 On the Rabble to s. 12 On Self-overcoming

**Week 8: Oct 21-25: On the Will and Different Forms of Wisdom**

Read from s. 13 On Those Who Are Sublime to s. 22 The Stillest Hour

***III: Third Part, Thus Spoke Zarathustra***

**Week 9: *Amor Fati* and Eternal Recurrence**

Oct 28-November 1: Read from s. 1 The Wanderer to s. 4 Before the Sunrise

*\*Essay topics posted November 1: selection during weeks 10-11\**

**Week 10: Zarathustra's Critiques**

Nov 4-8: Read from s. 5 On Virtue That Makes Smaller to s. 11 On the Spirit of Heaviness

**Week 11: Midterm break Nov 11-13**

**Discussion Day Nov 15**

**Week 12: On the Re-evaluation of Values and Active Nihilism**

Nov 18-22: Read s. 12 On Old and New Tablets

**Week 13: On Negation, Affirmation, and Becoming What One Is**

Nov 25 -29: Read from s. 13 The Convalescent to s. 16 The Seven Seals

**Week 14: Closing Discussion**

Dec 2-6: Readings to be announced

*\*Dec 6 Final Essay due\**

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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During the course, students will learn about the key concepts of Nietzsche's philosophy. They will practice talking and thinking critically about his arguments and ideas. The midterm exam provides an opportunity to demonstrate understanding of the concepts studied to date. The final paper is an exercise in critical thinking to explore and deepen understanding of one or more of the ideas studied during the course. By the end of the semester, students will be familiar with Nietzsche's thinking and his legacies in French and Anglo-American philosophy.

**UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND SUPPORT**

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UBC provides resources to support student learning and to maintain healthy lifestyles but recognizes that sometimes crises arise and so there are additional resources to access including those for survivors of sexual violence. UBC values respect for the person and ideas of all members of the academic community. Harassment and discrimination are not tolerated nor is suppression of academic freedom. UBC provides appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities and for religious observances. UBC values academic honesty and students are expected to acknowledge the ideas generated by others and to uphold the highest academic standards in all their actions. Details of the policies and how to access support are available on [the UBC Senate website](#).

**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism, which is intellectual theft, occurs where an individual submits or presents the oral or written work of another person as his or her own. Scholarship quite properly rests

upon examining and referring to the thoughts and writings of others. However, when another person's words (i.e. phrases, sentences, or paragraphs), ideas, or entire works are used, the author must be acknowledged in the text, in footnotes, in endnotes, or in another accepted form of academic citation. Where direct quotations are made, they must be clearly delineated (for example, within quotation marks or separately indented). Failure to provide proper attribution is plagiarism because it represents someone else's work as one's own. Plagiarism should not occur in submitted drafts or final works. A student who seeks assistance from a tutor or other scholastic aids must ensure that the work submitted is the student's own. Students are responsible for ensuring that any work submitted does not constitute plagiarism. Students who are in any doubt as to what constitutes plagiarism should consult their instructor before handing in any assignments. A link about Academic misconduct is below:

<http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/Vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,959>

The use of *Chat GPT* and similar online resources is considered “cheating” in the UBC policy if students make unauthorized use of this tool in the creation of assignments or on exams (“use...of unauthorized means to complete an examination or coursework...including, but not limited to, ...accessing websites or other online resources not specifically permitted by the instructor or examiner”).

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