

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 Mon, Wed, Fri 10-11 am TBA	PHIL 416A 001 2025W1	3 credits

Course Instructor	Contact Details	Office Location	Office Hours
Dr. Willow Verkerk	willow.verkerk@ubc.ca	BUCH E 158	Mon, Wed 4-5 pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION

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, 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, friendship, and other topics of interest.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

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 (\$16.50).

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

ASSESSMENTS OF LEARNING

Exam 30% posted October 3- Option to take in oral or written form. Oral form during class and office hours from Oct 6-10. Written form *Due October 10*.

Final Essay (3000-3500 words) 60% posted October 31; *Due December 5*

Participation 10% (class attendance and participation in class discussion).

Written assignments are submitted on Canvas.

SCHEDULE: MON, WED, FRI 10– 11 AM

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

Sept 3: On How to Read Nietzsche/On How to Read *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*

I: First Part, Thus Spoke Zarathustra

Sept 5: 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 8-12: 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 15-19: READ from s. 7 On Reading and Writing to s. 13 On Chastity

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

Sept 22- 26: READ from s. 14 On the Friend to s. 22 On the Bestowing Virtue

II: Second Part, Thus Spoke Zarathustra

Week 5: On Wisdom, the Overhuman, and Virtue

Sept 29-Oct 3: READ from s. 1 The Child With the Mirror to 5. On the Virtuous

Exam Posted October 3

Week 6: Exam: Option to take in oral or written form

Oct 6-10: No classes, oral exams during regular course hours (and office hours if needed)

Written form due October 10

Holiday October 13- No class

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

Oct 15-17: Read from s. 6 On the Rabble to s. 12 On Self-overcoming

Week 8: Oct 20-24: 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 27-31: Read from s. 1 The Wanderer to s. 4 Before the Sunrise

Essay topics posted October 31: selection during weeks 10-11

Week 10: Zarathustra's Critiques

Nov 3-7: Read from s. 5 On Virtue That Makes Smaller to s. 11 On the Spirit of Heaviness

Week 11: Midterm break Nov 10-12

Discussion Day Nov 14

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

Nov 17-21: Read s. 12 On Old and New Tablets

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

Nov 24 -28: Read from s. 13 The Convalescent to s. 16 The Seven Seals

Week 14: Closing Discussion

Dec 1-5: Readings to be announced

Dec 5 Final Essay due

LEARNING OUTCOMES

During the course, students will learn about 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

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](#).

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

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