

NIETZSCHE AT THE MOVIES

GERMAN 24

SPRING 2020



PROF. KAREN S. FELDMAN

GERMAN DEPARTMENT
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

NIETZSCHE AT THE MOVIES

GERMAN 24

SPRING 2020

PROF. KAREN S. FELDMAN

Schedule of Readings and Screenings	<i>iii</i>
Nietzsche, <i>Birth of Tragedy</i> , section 1	1
Nietzsche, <i>On the Genealogy of Morals</i> , Essay One, sections 10-11; section 13	5
Nietzsche, <i>Beyond Good and Evil</i> , section 21	10
Nietzsche, <i>The Gay Science</i> , section 13; section 349	12
Nietzsche, <i>The Will to Power</i> sections #636 and #642	15
Nietzsche, <i>On the Genealogy of Morals</i> , Essay One, sections 14-15; Essay Two, sections 21-23	17
Nietzsche, <i>Beyond Good and Evil</i> , section 51	23
Arthur Schopenhauer, from <i>The World as Will and Representation</i> , p.3	24
Nietzsche, from <i>Twilight of the Idols</i> , "The Four Great Errors," sections 6-7	25
Nietzsche, "On the pathos of truth", excerpt (in <i>Philosophy and Truth</i>)	27
Nietzsche, "The greatest weight," section 341 of <i>The Gay Science</i>	28
Nietzsche, from <i>Twilight of the Idols</i> , "The Four Great Errors," sections 3-7	30

GERMAN DEPARTMENT
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

German 24
University of California, Berkeley
Spring 2020

Karen S. Feldman
kfeldman@berkeley.edu
Office hrs: Tuesdays 10am-noon, with exceptions
Office: Dwinelle Hall 5325, tel. 642-2973

Nietzsche at the Movies

Course Description:

In this freshman seminar we will read and discuss short excerpts from the work of Friedrich Nietzsche and relate those excerpts to popular films. We will focus on the following topics: Apollo vs. Dionysus; strength and weakness; truth and representation; and eternal return. The goal is to develop a cursory understanding of some central Nietzschean concepts.

Course texts

The course reader will be available at Instant Copying and Laser Printing at 2138 University Ave. Until it is available, readings will be on bCourses under 'Resources'.

Films are on reserve at Media Resource Center in Moffitt Library. See list at the end of the syllabus for call numbers.

See bCourses for updated course info

In all matters mentioned on this syllabus, updates posted on the course website and announced in class supersede the information printed here. Please check bCourses frequently and pay attention for updates announced in class. It is your responsibility to read communications from the instructor.

Grading

Grades for this course will be P/NP.

Students will submit short weekly written assignments on bCourses. You receive one point per assignment for good work, and another point per assignment for on-time completion. You must earn 19 out of 22 points in order to receive a grade of P. The number and length of these weekly assignments are subject to change owing to the evolution of the course and the needs and desires of students.

Participation is important because this is a seminar and discussion is emphasized. Quality of contributions is more important than quantity, but each student should contribute at each session.

Attendance is required and students who miss more than two sessions may receive a reduced final grade for the course. Students who miss more than three sessions may fail the course.

Academic honesty

Plagiarism, to put it broadly, is the presentation of another's words and/or ideas as one's own, including material taken from the internet. It is grounds not only for immediate failure of this course, but also for disciplinary action at the university's administrative level. The same holds true for other forms of academic dishonesty. Please see the university's websites for student conduct and student judicial affairs for more information (e.g. <http://students.berkeley.edu/uga/conductiii-vii.asp#V>, <http://students.berkeley.edu/osl/sja.asp?id=1143&rcol=1201>).

Please also note that for this class 'academic honesty' also includes the assumption that all written student work for this course will be new work produced expressly for this course. This means that you may not submit papers for this course that contain material that has been, or will be, submitted for other courses at any institution. Likewise you are not permitted to submit work for this course to another instructor for another course, unless that and instructor and I both give explicit our explicit consent for that arrangement.

Non-Discrimination Statement

The University of California, in accordance with applicable federal and state law and university policy, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, physical or mental disability, medical condition (cancer-related or genetic characteristics), ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, citizenship, or status as a covered veteran (special disabled veteran, Vietnam-era veteran or any other veteran who served on active duty during a war or in a campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge has been authorized). This nondiscrimination policy covers admission, access and treatment in university programs and activities.

DSP accommodations

If you are entitled to disability-related accommodations in this class, if you have emergency medical information you wish to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please inform me and your GSI. Please see us privately after class or in our offices.

Please note that mental health conditions, including depression, anxiety, eating disorders and other conditions, may render you eligible for disability accommodations. If you suspect you might benefit from this, now is the time to visit DSP to see if you qualify for an accommodation, if you have not done so already. The reasons for your accommodations are not disclosed to instructors; only the terms of the accommodation itself. Both for reasons of equity, and because the instructor is not a mental health professional, the instructor is not qualified to provide accommodations such as deadline extensions to students on the basis of self-reported mental health issues. Please, if you are having a mental health issue, go to DSP right away to request an appropriate accommodation.

Readings

Issues and the corresponding readings and films are tentatively scheduled to be covered in **approximately** the order listed; however, it might happen that we cannot cover in class all the readings and films listed on this syllabus. We may decide at different points during the term, based on desires and needs of students, how to allot the class's discussion time. This means that the exact schedule of readings and written assignments is based on the evolution of the course and is *subject to change*. It is the student's responsibility to have prepared for each session accordingly.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND FILMS

DATE	THEME	ASSIGNED FILMS AND READINGS
Part I: Apollo and Dionysus		
Jan 15	Introduction	First day of class
Jan 22	Apollinian & Dionysian	Reading: Nietzsche, <i>Birth of Tragedy</i> , section 1 Film: "Vicky Cristina Barcelona"
Part II: Strength and will		
Jan 29	Strength & resentment	Reading: Nietzsche, <i>On the Genealogy of Morals</i> , Essay One, sections 10-11; section 13
Feb 5	Strength & resentment	Reading: Nietzsche, <i>On the Genealogy of Morals</i> , continued Film: "The Incredibles"
Feb 12	Against free will	Reading: Nietzsche, <i>Beyond Good and Evil</i> , section 21 Film: "Matrix"
Feb 19	Will to power	Reading: Nietzsche, <i>The Gay Science</i> , section 86; section 349; Film: "Heathers"
Feb 26	Will to power	Reading: Nietzsche, <i>Will to Power</i> , Fragment 636 Film: "Alien"
Mar 4	Ascetic morality	Reading: Nietzsche, <i>On the Genealogy of Morals</i> , Essay One, sections 14-15; Essay Two, sections 21-23; <i>Beyond Good and Evil</i> , section 51 Film: "Goya's Ghosts"

Part III: The dissolution of truth

Mar 11	Represented world	Reading: Arthur Schopenhauer, from <i>The World as Will and Representation</i> , p.3 Film: "The Truman Show"
Mar 18	Simulation & truth	Reading: Nietzsche, from <i>Twilight of the Idols</i> , "Reason in philosophy," sections 6-7 [pp. 63-65]; "On the pathos of truth," excerpt (in <i>Philosophy and Truth</i>)
Mar 25	No class	SPRING BREAK
April 1	Simulation & truth	Reading: Nietzsche, <i>Twilight of the Idols</i> , continued Film: "Inception"
April 8	Simulation & truth	Reading: TBA Film: Synecdoche, NY

Part IV: Temporality

April 15	Eternal return	Readings: Nietzsche, "The greatest weight," section 341 of <i>The Gay Science</i> Nietzsche, <i>Twilight of the Idols</i> , "The four great errors," sections 3-7 [pp. 59-65] Film: "Groundhog Day"
April 22	Eternal return	Reading: TBA Film: "Broken Flowers"
April 29	Eternal return	Film: "Run Lola Run"
May 6		RRR week: optional class

Media Resource Center call numbers for assigned movies:

Vicky Cristina Barcelona: DVD X953
 The Incredibles: DVD 3662
 Matrix: DVD 118
 Heathers: DVD 4038
 Alien: VIDEO/C 999:410
 Goya's Ghost: DVD 9478

The Truman Show: DVD 7383
 Inception: DVD X5023
 Synecdoche, NY: DVD X1389
 Groundhog Day: DVD 8341
 Run Lola Run: DVD 725