

BAYLOR UNIVERSITY
Department of Political Science
Graduate Seminar in Political Philosophy

Nietzsche & the Revolt from Modernity

PSC 5393
D. D. Allman
Office Hrs:
W: 11-1, or by appt.

Spring 2016
B 306
Ext: 6062



“It is only beginning with me that the earth knows *große Politik*.”
~Friedrich Nietzsche

STRUCTURE OF COURSE:

Participation & Directing Discussion—

This course will be conducted seminar-style and therefore structured around your participation. Class time will be largely devoted to our common deliberation on a selection of Nietzsche’s texts drawn from the different stages of his philosophical career. Coming to class prepared and participating meaningfully in our deliberations on these works is therefore essential to the success of this course. My hope is that you too will assume responsibility for the success of this endeavor, which will express itself in the investment you make preparing for and engaging in each session of the course. Regular and significant contributions to classroom activity, moreover, will inevitably factor into my evaluations of your performance in the course. By demonstrating a commitment to the course through such participation, you ensure yourself the benefit of the doubt in my assessments of individual assignments and/or of overall performance in the course.

Moreover, each student will take a turn at conducting our classroom conversation and common study by signing up to lead us through **a critical examination of one of the secondary articles on Nietzsche that I have/will identify as part of our common reading**. Your performance in this capacity will be evaluated and the score awarded will count for **20% of the final grade**.

Attendance—

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class session. Our class is small and meets only once per week. Therefore, I am going to insist that everyone do their very best to attend every class session. To receive above a C grade for the course students can miss no more than 2 (**two**) class sessions (including any make-up sessions that might prove necessary). In the case of intractable, extenuating circumstances that make it impossible for you to avoid missing more than two class sessions, I will expect you to communicate with me about the nature of your circumstances at the earliest possible opportunity. My readiness to accommodate your situation will be commensurate with your attempts to accommodate that of the course. In accordance with Baylor University policy, moreover, **any student missing more than 4 scheduled class meetings (i.e., 25%) will fail the course, regardless of performance.** Your attendance will likewise factor into my evaluation of your commitment to and participation (discussed above) in the course.

Seminar Paper—

Each student will be required to complete a **seminar paper** to be handed in during the final week of classes (April 29, see calendar). Needless to say, any composition submitted for credit must be entirely your own work. *Plagiarism, whether from a published source or a made-for-sale essay, is a violation of Baylor's honor code and will result in an F for the course.*

The seminar paper should be **approximately 20 pages** in length and should deal with one or more of the texts for this course. It may take a broad variety of forms, including a primarily exegetical-analytical commentary on a given text, or some part thereof; or it may explicate and explore a doctrine, theme, or line of argument(s) running through a number of Nietzsche's works. On the other hand, you may choose to take up a problem, set of questions, and/or line of inquiry that is identified as important for understanding Nietzsche's thought in one or more of the secondary works that we will consider together. Of course, a term-paper project that does not fit neatly within these parameters is also possible, though you will likely want to consult closely with me in laying your plans.

The paper should have a well-conceived thesis, which it prosecutes cogently with evidence drawn effectively and efficiently from the relevant texts by Nietzsche. It should also show evidence of having consulted relevant secondary sources. And it should conform to the conventions prescribed by the *Chicago Manual of Style*. I want to consult with each student about his/her project and plans for the seminar paper and will make arrangements to meet with each of you to discuss this project as the semester proceeds. Each student **must submit for my approval a formal abstract of the paper (1 or 2 paragraphs)** that explains the project you propose to undertake—e.g., the thesis or line of argument you intend to prosecute, detailing at least in broad terms how you intend to structure the paper in order to accomplish your aims. Your abstract should include a brief bibliography of secondary sources you have consulted or expect to consult. **Abstracts are due no later than March 31. No seminar papers will be accepted for which abstracts have not first been received and approved.** The abstract will count for **10% of the final grade**, while the seminar paper itself will be worth **70% of the final grade**.

GRADE SCALE FOR COURSE:

100 – 92% = A	81 – 80% = B-	69 – 60% = D
91 – 90% = A-	79 – 76% = C+	59 – 0% = F
89 – 86% = B+	75 – 72% = C	
85 – 82% = B	71 – 70% = C-	