

Fall 2019

Special Topics: Nietzsche and Ortega

PHI 3930 (03EH), 3 credits

LEI 242, MWF 5

Instructor: Dr. Thomas Auxter

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Friedrich Nietzsche is one of the most influential philosophers of the nineteenth century. He is often described as among the first existentialist philosophers. In this course, we will read and evaluate selections from two of his most important works: *Beyond Good and Evil* (1888) and *The Gay Science* (1887).

We will ask why he classifies the Western tradition as nihilistic. What does he mean by nihilism? Why does he think it has such a hold on human beings? Why does he compare human beings to herd animals? How does religion fit into the picture? What does he mean by the death of God?

For Nietzsche, what is the alternative to nihilism? What does he think it means to affirm life and live life to the fullest? Why does he advocate a shift from moral and religious categories to artistic ways of experiencing and thinking about the world? What does it mean to take a Dionysian approach to life?

The philosophies of thought and action of Jose Ortega y Gasset will also be investigated in this course. We will read *The Revolt of the Masses* (1930) and *History as a System* (1941).

Ortega is a Spanish philosopher (1883-1955) who began his search for a new approach to philosophy where Nietzsche's quest ended. He developed key concepts of existentialism. Ortega argued that "man has no nature" and "must make his own existence at every single moment."

In 1936 he went into exile as the fascists in Spain were staging a military takeover. He took up residence in Argentina and had a major influence on an entire generation of philosophers in Latin America. Ortega combined insights about existential choices with new interpretations of Latin American identity.

He eventually had a major influence on European interpretations of existential reality as well -- especially in philosophies developed by Simone de Beauvoir,

Jean-Paul Sartre, and Albert Camus. Camus calls Ortega “the greatest of European writers after Nietzsche.”

Intellectuals during Ortega’s time were impressed by his ability to sum up fundamental dilemmas of the human condition and pose new questions for exploration. His extraordinary writing style stems in part from an early career as a journalist – believing he must reclaim the reader’s interest in every sentence of short narratives.

We will ask why Ortega thinks that Nietzsche’s ‘herd’ of the Western tradition turns into ‘the masses’ of the twentieth century? What does this mean for choices in life? How does this change political decisions-making? How do we redefine human destiny?

Requirements for the course: There will be a midterm essay test and two essays written in a final examination (10C). Each of the three essays will count as one third of the grade.

Illness policy: Students are **asked not to attend class if they are ill**: work missed will be made up without penalty at a later time arranged by mutual consent. Students who are ill are asked to **inform the instructor by email, not in person**.

Texts:

Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil* (Kaufmann translation)

The Gay Science (Kaufmann translation)

Ortega, *The Revolt of the Masses* (Norton edition)

History as a System (Norton edition)

Readings

August

21 Introduction

23 Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil*, pp. 1-3

26 “ “ “ pp. 9-17

28 “ “ pp.17-27

30 “ “ pp. 27-32

September

2 Labor Day – no class

4 pp. 45-56

6 “ “ pp. 60-61, 72-76

9 “ “ pp. 97-104

11	"	"		pp. 109-118
13	"	"		pp. 121-128
16				pp. 134-141
18	"	"	"	pp. 155-158
20				pp. 196-198
23	"	"	"	pp. 201-238
25	<i>The Gay Science</i>			pp. 73-76,
27				pp. 92-94
30	"	"	"	pp. 96-98, 116-118
October				
2	"	"	"	pp. 174-175, 181-182
4	Homecoming – no class			
7	"	"	"	pp. 228, 239-240,
9	"	"	"	pp. 273-275, 279-280
11	"	"	"	pp. 285-287, 331-332
14	"	"	"	pp. 342-343, 346-348
16	Essay Test (midterm)			
18	<i>The Revolt of the Masses,</i>			pp. 11-18
21	"	"		pp. 19-27
23	"	"		pp. 28-37
25	"	"		pp. 38-46
28	"	"		pp. 47-53
30	"	"		pp. 54-60
November				
1	"	"	"	pp. 61-67
6	"	"	"	pp. 68-77
8	"	"	"	pp. 78-87
11	Veterans Day – no class			
13	"	"	"	pp. 88-96
15	"	"	"	pp. 97-106
18	"	"	"	pp. 107-114
20	"	"	"	pp. 115-124
22	"	"	"	pp. 125-145
25	"	"	"	pp. 146-169
27	"	"	"	pp. 170-190
29	Holiday – no class			

December

2 Conclusion

4 Conclusion

6 Conclusion

Final Examination: Exam Group: 10C

References

Plato, *Republic*

Apology

J. W. Roberts, *City of Socrates*

C. Kerényi, *Eleusis*

Martin Bernal, *Black Athena*

Walter Burkert, *Greek Religion*

Frank Snowden, *Blacks in Antiquity*

Immanuel Kant, *Dreams of a Spirit-Seer*

Critique of Pure Reason

"The End of All Things"

John Stuart Mill, *Utilitarianism*

On Liberty

The Subjection of Women

Richard Sennett, *The Fall of Public Man*

Friedrich Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil*

Simone de Beauvoir, *The Ethics of Ambiguity*

The Second Sex

Jean-Paul Sartre, *Colonialism and Neocolonialism*

Albert Camus, *Resistance, Rebellion, and Death*

Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth*

Black Skin, White Masks

Steve Biko, *I Write What I Like*

Tsenay Serequeberhan, ed., *African Philosophy*

Jorge Luis Borges, *A Personal Anthology*

Conversations

Jose Carlos Mariategui, *Seven Interpretive Essays on Peruvian Reality*

Leopoldo Zea, *The Role of the Americas in History*

Ofelia Schutte, *Cultural Identity and Social Liberation in Latin American Thought*

Note: The University asks faculty to post information about the grading scale, academic honesty, students with disabilities, classroom policies, and online course evaluation that will be the basis for policies and decisions in the course. That information from the University follows. – T.A.

The following grade scale will be used to assign final letter grades for the course. See UF grading policies for assigning grade points at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

Grade Scale	Grade Value
100-93=A	A=4.0
92-90=A-	A-=3.67
89-86=B+	B+=3.33
85-82=B	B=3.00
81-79=B-	B-=2.67
78-75=C+	C+=2.33
75-72=C	C=2.00
71-69=C-	C-=1.67
68-66=D+	D+=1.33
65-62=D	D=1.00
61-60=D-	D-=0.67
59-0=E	E=0.00

ACADEMIC HONESTY. UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge, which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class. Plagiarism on any assignment will automatically result in a grade of "E" for the course. Plagiarism is defined in the University of Florida's Student Honor Code as follows: "A student shall not represent as the student's own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes (but is not limited to): a. Quoting oral or written materials, whether published or unpublished, without proper attribution. b. Submitting a document or assignment which in whole or in part is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment not authored by the student." Students found guilty of academic misconduct will be prosecuted in accordance with the procedures specified in the UF honesty policy.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drp/>). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

ONLINE COURSE EVALUATION. Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluer.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.