

Lingnan University
Department of Philosophy

Course Title	: Schopenhauer and Nietzsche
Course Code	: PHI4275
Recommended Study Year	: 3 rd Year
No. of Credits/Term	: 3
Mode of Tuition	: Lecture and Tutorial
Class Contact Hours	: 2 hours Lecture/week; 1 hour Tutorial/week
Category in Major Programme	: Programme Elective –Continental Philosophy Profile
Recommendation(s)	: At least one course in History of Western Philosophy 1. PHI2113 History of Western Philosophy: Ancient Greek Philosophy 2. PHI2117 History of Western Philosophy: From Descartes to Kant
Co-requisite(s)	: N/A
Exclusion(s)	: N/A
Exemption Requirement(s)	: N/A

Brief Course Description

This course introduces the philosophies of two so-called “life-philosophers”, Schopenhauer and Nietzsche. It discusses the metaphysical, epistemological, ethical and aesthetic aspects of their thought and their significance for subsequent 20th century ideas like existentialism and postmodernism. It should therefore be of interest not only for philosophy majors but also others like literature and cultural studies.

Aims

This course aims at (i) introducing Schopenhauer’s main ideas like the metaphysics of the Will and his aesthetics; (ii) introducing Nietzsche’s “teachings” like the “Apollo-Dionysus” duality, “eternal recurrence”, “the will to power”, “overman”, “nihilism”, “perspectivism”, etc., (iii) to familiarize with Schopenhauer’s and Nietzsche’s arguments and methods of philosophizing by guided reading of three central texts *The World as Will and Representation*, *The Birth of Tragedy* and *The Genealogy of Morals*, and selective reading of their other writings.

Learning Outcomes

- i. to have knowledge about Schopenhauer’s and Nietzsche’s basic ideas;
- ii. to understand their method of argument by reading their original texts;
- iii. to engage in critical discussion about their philosophy.

Indicative Content

- i. Schopenhauer’s solution of the Kantian problem of “thing-in-itself” and the development of his philosophy of Will;
- ii. Schopenhauer’s metaphysics of the Will and his pessimistic philosophical system;
- iii. Schopenhauer’s philosophy of nature and the relation between the Will and the intellect
- iv. Schopenhauer’s aesthetics and the significance of music
- v. The philosophical significance of the Greek culture (esp. Homer and tragedy) for Nietzsche;
- vi. The significance of *The Birth of Tragedy* in Nietzsche’s aesthetics, metaphysics and philosophy of life;
- vii. Nietzsche’s critique of ethics in *The Genealogy of Morals* and the idea of Nihilism;
- viii. Nietzsche’s teachings like “God is dead”, “Overman”, “Nihilism”, “perspectivism”;

- ix. Nietzsche's critique of traditional philosophical concepts, e.g. metaphysics, causality, subjectivity;
- x. The metaphysical significance of Nietzsche's later philosophy in relation to "the will to power", the problem of time and "eternal recurrence".

Teaching Method

Lecture and guided reading of selected sections of Schopenhauer's *The World as Will and Representation*, Nietzsche's *The Birth of Tragedy* and *The Genealogy of Morals* and selections from other writings.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes

- i. participation in discussion of original texts (to measure outcomes i. – iii.);
- ii. oral presentation (to measure outcomes i. – iii.);
- iii. written report and examination (to measure outcomes i. – iii.).

Assessment

20% tutorial presentation,
30% book report,
50% term paper

Required Readings

Main Texts

Schopenhauer, A. *The World as Will and Representation* tr. E. F. J. Payne, 2 vol. (New York: Dover Publications, 1969)
Nietzsche, F. *The Birth of Tragedy* and *The Genealogy of Morals* tr. F. Golffing (New York : Doubleday, 1956)

Introductory

Young, Julian *Schopenhauer* (London; New York : Routledge, 2005)
Tanner, Michael *Nietzsche: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford : Oxford University Press, 2000)

Supplementary Readings

Schopenhauer

On the Fourfold Root of the Principle of Sufficient Reason tr. E F. J. Payne (La Salle, Ill. : Open Court, 1974)

Nietzsche

- "On the Truth and Lies in a Nonmoral Sense";
- "Philosophy at the Tragic Age of Greece";
- "On the Use and Disadvantage of History";
- Selections from *Human, All too Human*, *The Gay Science*, *Beyond Good and Evil*, *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, *The Will to Power*.

On Schopenhauer

Jacquette, Dale ed. *Schopenhauer, Philosophy, and the Arts* (Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press, 1996)
Janaway, Christopher *Schopenhauer: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 2002)

Neeley, G. Steven *Schopenhauer: A Consistent Reading* (Lewiston, N.Y.: E. Mellen Press, 2003)
Safranski Rüdiger *Schopenhauer and the Wild Years of Philosophy* (Cambridge, Mass. : Harvard University Press, 1990)
鄧安慶 《叔本華》 (臺北市: 東大圖書, 1998)

On Nietzsche

Danto, Arthur *Nietzsche as Philosopher* (New York : Columbia University Press, 1980)
Heidegger, Martin *Nietzsche* tr. D. Farrell Krell (San Francisco : Harper & Row, 1984)
Jaspers, Karl *Nietzsche: an Introduction to the Understanding of his Philosophical Activity* tr. C.F. Wallraff & F.J. Schmitz (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997)
Löwith, Karl *Nietzsche's Philosophy of the Eternal Recurrence of the Same* tr. J. H. Lomax (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1997)
Nehamas, Alexander, *Nietzsche, Life as Literature* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1985)
Schacht, R. *Nietzsche* (London; Boston: Routledge & K. Paul, 1992)
Silk, M.S. & Stern, J.P. *Nietzsche on Tragedy* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1981)
Deleuze, Gille *Nietzsche and Philosophy* tr. H. Tomlinson (New York: Columbia University Press, 1983)
周國平 《尼采在廿世紀的轉折點上》 (台北 : 林鬱, 1992)

Important Notes

- (1) Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 3 hours of class contact and 6 hours of personal study) per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.
- (2) Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is “the presentation of another person’s work without proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student’s own work”. Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.
- (3) Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.
- (4) To enhance students’ understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course “Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness” is available on <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>