

The Young Friedrich Nietzsche: Images, Memories, Music, Stories, Texts

Humanities Seminar Spring 2014

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Course Description:

The youthful interests of Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900), one of the most influential and controversial German writers (philologist, poet, musician, and philosopher), permeate his later work for which he is widely known. We will first consider young Nietzsche's experiences, letters, images, memories, illustrations, piano compositions, poetry and prose. How might Nietzsche's early experiences and production have impacted the writing of his first major publication, *The Birth of Tragedy Out of the Spirit of Music* and later writings? The goal of the seminar is to render a new and different reading that challenges contemporary conceptions of the man and his work.

General Syllabus*

Week 1 (January 22, 2014): **Introduction** -- "Nietzsche"

Week 2 (January 29): **Memories** -- Memories of Nietzsche and Nietzsche's Memories

Week 3 (February 5): **Music** -- Nietzsche's Reflections on Music and His Musical Compositions and Poetry

Week 4 (February 12): **Images** -- Depictions of "Nietzsche" and Nietzsche's Drawings and Board Games

Week 5 (February 19): **Stories** -- Stories of Nietzsche and Nietzsche's Stories

Week 6 (February 26): **Texts** -- Nietzsche's Early Texts and *The Birth of Tragedy Out of the Spirit of Music*

Week 7 (March 5): **Texts** -- *The Birth of Tragedy Out of the Spirit of Music* and His Lectures on the Pre-Platonics

Week 8 (March 12): **Texts** -- From *Human, All-Too Human* to *Genealogy of Morals* and *Zarathustra*

***No Class on March 19** [University's Spring Break]

Week 9 (March 26): **Texts** -- From *Beyond Good and Evil* to *The Antichrist* and *Ecce Homo*

Week 10 (April 2): **"Nietzsche" Today**

Recommended Reading:

Nietzsche. The Birth of Tragedy and Other Writings, edited by Raymond Geuss and Ronald Speirs. Cambridge Texts in the History of Philosophy. Cambridge University Press, 1999.