After a selective survey of Nietzsche’s previous writings, the course will focus on the last major works that Nietzsche completed—The Antichrist; Twilight of the Idols; and Ecce Homo—with a view to understanding Nietzsche’s challenge to all past political philosophy and to our contemporary democracy and democratic theory in all its forms.

Some reading knowledge of German would be very helpful; students are urged to consult the original texts as much as they are able, especially when they write their papers.

The translations of Walter Kaufmann and R. J. Hollingdale are strongly recommended, for accuracy and grace.

Requirements:
20% Take-home final exam essay, on assigned synoptic question, of 1000 words.
40% Analytic-interpretative paper, 10+ pages, due at end of term.
30% Ten weekly one-page papers, on one of the weekly study questions.
10% Class participation.

Handy and cheap to own:
Werke, ed. Schlechta, 3 vols. (Munich: Hanser, 1956, and reprinted)—this is a reliable ed. of the major published works, with an index as vol. 4.

The standard critical edition of Nietzsche’s works:
Nietzsche Werke, 24 vols. and 4 CDs. Ed. Colli and Montinari (Berlin: De Gruyter, 1967-2006). This is available in 15 volumes in paperback, as well as online.

Often cited previous editions of Nietzsche:
Grossoktavausgabe (Leipzig, 1905ff.—this is the edition Heidegger cites).

Helpful secondary writing.


Useful biography in English:
Young, Julian. 2010. *Friedrich Nietzsche: A Philosophical Biography*. Cambridge U. Press. — Seventeen musical compositions by Nietzsche, along with brief commentary, may be obtained and listened to at this book’s website: http://www.cambridge.org/gb/knowledge/isbn/item5708846/?site_locale=en_GB&display=genresources&anchor=true#prim_tabs

A useful but not well kept up website (many obsolete links . . .) of “The Friedrich Nietzsche Society” in England: http://www.fns.org.uk/fnslink.htm

For the opening classes, READ, in the following order:

From Nietzsche’s first stage: *The Birth of Tragedy* [N’s first work, 1872] focusing esp. on secs. 1-15, 18, 21, 23-24. I suggest reading the Preface [added in 1886], “Attempt at a Self-Criticism,” only after the original work.

“Richard Wagner in Bayreuth” 1876, secs. 4-5, 7—fourth essay in *Untimely Meditations*.

“Schopenhauer as Educator” (1874), secs. 4-5, third essay in Ibid.

[Recommended: “Schopenhauer as Educator,” secs. 6-end; “David Strauss, the Confessor and the Writer” (1873), secs. 6-7, first essay in Ibid.]

“On the Uses and Disadvantages of History for Life” [1874], second essay in ibid. and N’s first great work of philosophic writing.

The beginning of Nietzsche’s second stage:
*Human, All Too Human* [1878] vol. 1, aphorisms 1-3, 6-7, 9-10, 16, 18-19, 24-28, 32, 34, 35, 45, 49. Then the Preface (written later, 1886).