This course is conceived as a pathway to the Humanities and an introduction to the work of Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900). A range of Nietzsche’s work will be considered, but the focus will be on three themes to which Nietzsche recurred throughout his writing career:

1) **Culture:** Nietzsche’s thought on the anthropological roots and the expressive forms of human meaning-making: Apollo/Dionysus; Gesture; Music; Metaphor

2) **Critique:** the vacuous character of modern culture; romanticism, decadence, nihilism.

3) **Self-Transcendence:** individual self-realization and freedom.

The selection of these themes is motivated by the fact that they may be considered as fundamental dimensions of humanistic inquiry. Students will develop a sound understanding of a writer whose intellectual influence continues to grow, but at the same time they will become acquainted with such core concepts of humanistic/interpretive inquiry as form, expression, ideology, genealogy, discourse, self-fashioning, individuality, and value.
I. Nietzsche’s Life, Times, the Influences on Him, the Greeks

Introduction: this course; Nietzsche’s life

Some Fundamental Commitments: Life’s Meaning; Freedom; Conflict
Readings: The Greek State; Homer’s Contest (On the Genealogy of Morals and Other Writings, pp. 164-173; 174-182.)

II. The Birth of Tragedy

In addition to the readings by Nietzsche assigned for this section, you should also read: Mark Johnson, What Makes a Body? The Journal of Speculative Philosophy, New Series, vol 22/3 (2008), pp. 159-169.

The Anthropology of Art
Reading: The Birth of Tragedy, Chapters 1-10.

History of Meaning Frameworks: Justification of Life
Reading: The Birth of Tragedy, Chapters 11-15.

The Paradox of Tragedy: Pleasure and Pain; Art as Play
Reading: The Birth of Tragedy, Chapters 17-25.

Additional Reading: Euripides, The Bacchae
[http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.01.0092%3Acard%3D1]


In addition to the readings by Nietzsche, you should also read:
Jorge Luis Borges, Funes the Memorious
Kenneth Burke, The Four Master Tropes (A Grammar of Motives, pp. 503-517)

On Meaning: Metaphor and Concept
Reading: On Truth and Lying in a Non-Moral Sense (The Birth of Tragedy and Other Writings, pp. 139-153.

Types of Historical Writing
Reading: On the Uses and Disadvantages of History for Life, Sections 1-3 (Untimely Meditations, pp. 58-77.)

Historicism and Modern Culture
Reading: On the Uses and Disadvantages of History for Life, Sections 4-10 (*Untimely Meditations*, pp. 77-123).

**IV. Aphoristic Thinking**

Aphoristic Insight: Art and Artists; Culture; Criticism  
Reading: *Human, All Too Human*, Section 4: From the Souls of Artists and Writers, pp. 80-106; Section 5: Tokens of Higher and Lower Culture

Self, Self-Other, Self-Deception  
Reading: *Human, All Too Human*, Section 6: Man in Society, pp. 136-150; Section 9: Man Alone with Himself, pp. 179-204.

**V. The Teacher**

Reading: Schopenhauer as Educator (*Untimely Meditations*, pp. 125-194).  
Selections from: *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*  

**VI. The Free Spirit: “Is that what you want?”**

Aphorisms on Experience  
Reading: *The Gay Science*, Books One –Three (pp. 27-156).

Into Uncharted Territory of the Spirit  

**VII. Three Ideals**

Freedom, Scholarship, Nobility  
Reading: *Beyond Good and Evil*, Part 1: On the Prejudices of Philosophers; Part 2: The free spirit; Part 6: We scholars; Part 9: What is noble?

**VIII. Affirmation and Ressentiment**

The Strong and the Weak  
Reading: *On the Genealogy of Morality*, Preface; First Essay: ‘Good and Evil’; ‘Good and Bad’  
Morality as Anti-Nature (*The Anti-Christ, Ecce Homo, Twilight of the Idols and Other Writings*, pp. 171-176.)
IX. Toward a Critique of Art in Modernity

Wagner, Art, Totalitarianism
Reading: The Case of Wagner: A Musician’s Problem (The Anti-Christ, Ecce Homo, Twilight of the Idols and Other Writings, pp. 231-262.
What I Owe the Ancients, Twilight of the Idols, pp. 224-229.

X. On Truth and Truthfulness

March 1: The Socratic Intervention
Reading: The Problem of Socrates (Twilight of the Idols, pp. 162-170)

March 6: Genealogies
Reading: How the ‘True World’ Became a Fable (Twilight of the Idols, p. 171).