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

January 4: Introduction: this course; Nietzsche’s life

January 9: 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 (January 11-18), you
should also read:
22/3 (2008), pp. 159-169.

   January 11: The Anthropology of Art
   Reading: The Birth of Tragedy, Chapters 1-10.

   January 16: History of Meaning Frameworks: Justification of Life
   Reading: The Birth of Tragedy, Chapters 11-15.

   January 18: 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 aligned with the dates below, you should also read:
   Jorge Luis Borges, Funes the Memorious
   Kenneth Burke, The Four Master Tropes (A Grammar of Motives, pp. 503-517)

   January 23: 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.

   January 25: Types of Historical Writing
   Reading: On the Uses and Disadvantages of History for Life, Sections 1-3 (Untimely
   Meditations, pp. 58-77.)

   January 30: 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

February 1: 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

February 6: 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

February 8:
   Reading: Schopenhauer as Educator (Untimely Meditations, pp. 125-194).
   Selections from: Thus Spoke Zarathustra

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

February 13: Aphorisms on Experience
   Reading: The Gay Science, Books One–Three (pp. 27-156).

February 15: Into Uncharted Territory of the Spirit
   Reading: The Gay Science, Books IV and V (pp. 157-248).

VII. Three Ideals

February 20: 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?
   LECTURE: Joseph Haydt

VIII. Affirmation and Ressentiment

February 22: The Strong and the Weak
   Reading: On the Genealogy of Morality, Preface; First Essay: ‘Good and Evil’; ‘Good and Bad’

**IX. Toward a Critique of Art in Modernity**

February 27: 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)  
LECTURE: Matthew Johnson  

**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).  

**March 8-9 Reading Period**