

NIETZSCHE AND FREUD

PHIL 351-01/451-01

TTH 9:25–10:40

Dr. Miller

Know Thyself was Apollo's command to the Greeks. Not since antiquity have two philosophers pursued self-knowledge so relentlessly, showing themselves both followers of this god and students of the soul. Despite his criticisms of God and soul, after all, Nietzsche bowed to Apollo and considered himself a psychologist. Freud accordingly called him "a philosopher whose guesses and intuitions often agree in the most astonishing way with the laborious findings of psychoanalysis." This course aims to introduce their twin struggles for self-knowledge, with one eye on their remarkable similarities, and another on their significant differences.

We shall thus examine their famous criticisms of religion and morality, but not before treating their understandings of our soul, or lack thereof. What are our fundamental drives, whence spring our passions, and what guides our reason? Also important will be their diagnoses of human illness (both personal and cultural), the therapies they recommend, and thus their own visions of the best life, however dim. Major topics will include: human nature, whether fixed or free; desire, emotion, and reason; responsibility, good, and evil; god and religion; the best life and deviations from it; love and resentment; creativity and frustration; strength and weakness; guilt, neurosis, and narcissism; but above all, self-knowledge.

Moving chronologically through excerpts of their major works, and concluding with their autobiographies, we shall aim not only to understand the specific lives and thought of each, but also to appreciate more generally the coincidence of philosophy and psychology. Nietzschean readings will be excerpted from: *The Birth of Tragedy*, *The Gay Science*, *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, *Beyond Good and Evil*, *On the Genealogy of Morality*, *Twilight of the Idols*, *The Antichrist*, and *Ecce Homo*. Freudian readings will be excerpted from: *Case Histories* (Anna O., Elizabeth von R., Dora, and the Rat Man), *On Dreams*, *Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality*, *On Narcissism*, *Instincts and their Vicissitudes*, *Repression*, *The Unconscious*, *Mourning and Melancholia*, *Beyond the Pleasure Principle*, *The Ego and the Id*, *The Future of an Illusion*, and *An Autobiographical Study*.

Evaluation:	Texts
Reading Quizzes.....10%	<i>The Nietzsche Reader</i> , eds. Keith Ansell
First Paper.....20%	Pearson and Duncan Large
Midterm Exam.....20%	<i>The Freud Reader</i> , ed. Peter Gay
Second Paper.....25%	<i>Living with Nietzsche</i> , Robert Solomon
Final Exam.....25%	<i>Freud</i> , Jonathan Lear