

Existentialism
Fall 2021
Assignment #2
Nietzsche
Due Monday, October 25

All papers must be properly word processed or typed with 1" margins on the top, sides and bottom. Use double-spacing and no larger than 12pt font. Turn in by uploading to Laulima as either a Word file or pdf file. Use the following format to title your file: lastname Phil 360 #2.

Write a 3-4 page response to one of the following:

Philosophy as Art

In *The Birth of Tragedy* why does Nietzsche regard the high point of Greek culture to be, not the philosophy of Socrates and Plato, but Greek tragedy? How might Nietzsche's account of the origin of Greek tragedy in *The Birth of Tragedy* offer a preview of his mature philosophy? What connects Nietzsche's account of ancient Greek tragedy with Existentialism?

The Death of God

Explain how the madman's announcement of the "death of God" in *The Gay Science* expresses the problem of nihilism which leads to the crisis of modernity. In section 343 of *The Gay Science* Nietzsche finds some reason for cheerfulness in the wake of the "death of God." What in Nietzsche's philosophy provides a response to the crisis brought on by the "death of God"?

Perspectivism

A number of passages in *The Gay Science* and in *Beyond Good and Evil* concern what is often referred to as Nietzsche's perspectivism. Explain this perspectivism and how it expresses a central theme of Existentialism. To what extent would you agree with or challenge Nietzsche's perspectivism?

Thus Spoke Zarathustra

Explain and reflect upon at least one of the three key Nietzschean ideas introduced in *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*—the overhuman, the will to power and the eternal recurrence. Why perhaps does Nietzsche suggest in section 342 of *The Gay Science* that *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* is a tragedy? How might Zarathustra's teaching suggest Nietzsche's response to the crisis of modernity or, in other words, the "death of God"?