German 8200
The Late Works of Friedrich Nietzsche
Seminar in Literature and Literary Culture

Holub | 3 credit units | M 9:00-11:48 | Autumn Semester 2012

The writings Nietzsche composed after he completed *Zarathustra* comprise some of his most interesting and provocative works. The aphoristic *Beyond Good and Evil* (1886) sets the tone for this final period, dealing with a variety of themes from epistemology and ethics to social and political observations. The *Genealogy of Morals* (1887) purports to clarify comments made in *Beyond Good and Evil*, providing a detailed explanation of Nietzsche's critique of moral conventions in contemporary Europe, as well as reflections on their history and origins, and implications. In his final year Nietzsche produced a variety of short texts: two of these (*Nietzsche Contra Wagner* and *The Case of Wagner*) focus on the composer Richard Wagner, who was a veritable obsession for Nietzsche since the 1860s, but whom Nietzsche openly opposes only in these late works; one deals with Nietzsche's critique of Christianity (*The Antichrist/Antichristian*), which was an ongoing concern in the 1880s; one contains more general themes and thoughts (*Twilight of the Idols*); and one is an unusual autobiography (*Ecce Homo*). In addition Nietzsche filled several hundred pages of notebooks with thoughts, schemes, and commentary on his reading; he completed a fifth section of *The Gay Science* (first four sections published in 1882; fifth section in 1887), and two prefaces for earlier works (*Birth of Tragedy* and *The Gay Science*). We will be examining this body of work, or at least a portion of it, to determine his last views on a variety of important topics and endeavor to place him in the context of nineteenth-century thought.

The following assignments are anticipated: responsibility for leading one class discussion; one seminar paper presented during the last weeks of the semester.
Prereq: 6500, Grad standing, or permission of instructor. Repeatable to a maximum of 30 cr hrs.
Admis Cond course.