

RCHUMS 360 - Existentialism

Nietzsche Beyond Good and Evil Review

Nietzsche's work *Beyond Good and Evil* presents a meandering, yet comprehensive overview of his philosophical beliefs. Among the arguments that he extends to his audience are the implications of nihilism, the will to power, the shortcomings of conventional morality and democracy, and the Judeo-Christian inversion of all values. We will now attempt to analyze these ideas and place them in the context of Nietzsche's broader philosophy.

The Will to Power

1. How does Nietzsche organize a hierarchy of wills?
2. In what ways does the will to power commonly manifest?
3. What is highest elevation of this will to power and what are the costs to pursue it?
4. What is the last man?
5. How does the cultivation of the will to power intersect with politics and eugenics?

The Necessity of Myth

1. What are the prevailing myths that Nietzsche critiques?
2. How does Nietzsche describe his own ideal myth for society?
3. Do you believe that the philosophy that he puts forth is comprehensive? What is left out?
4. How do states create their own myths? When is this useful, and when not?
5. Describe any common patterns that arise in Nietzsche's construction of myths

The Inversion of Values

1. How does Nietzsche categorize moralities?
2. Why did slave morality arise out of the Jewish tradition?
3. How does Christian Platonism encourage a form of asceticism?
4. In whom does this inversion manifest?
5. Is this inversion sustainable, and if not, what should it be replaced with?

The Prejudices of Philosophers and Scientists

1. How does Nietzsche undermine the tendencies of enlightenment rationality?
2. Describe the dichotomy between the philosophers that Nietzsche attacks and his generation of "new philosophers." What is his hope for this new breed?
3. Are there any recurring characters or attributes in *Beyond Good and Evil* that overlap with his definition of a "philosopher?"
4. How does Nietzsche characterize 'theoretical men'? What do they value?
5. Who is not allowed to be a philosopher? (i.e. describe Nietzsche's views on women).