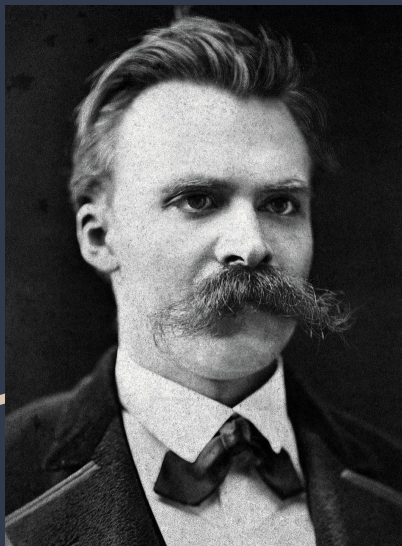


Nietzsche

Zarathustra + History of Morals

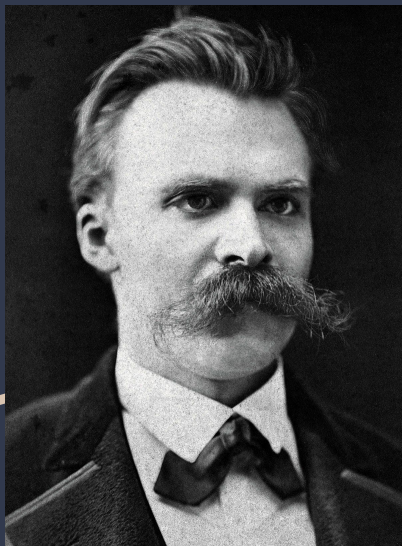
A large, dark blue, diagonal shape that starts from the bottom left and extends towards the top right, covering the lower half of the slide.

Who was Nietzsche?



- Born in Prussia, 1844-1900 (Died at 56)
- Prodigy - Made chair of Philology (Classic Language) at Basel University at age 24 (1869)
- Served in the Prussian army before becoming an academic
- Leave of absence - 1875 (Mental and Physical Health)
 - Never returns as quite the same person
- Sickly life - suffered from migraines and ulcers, almost died in the army as a teen riding horses, contracts syphilis and dysentery. Suffers two strokes which leads to his death in 1900
- Severe mental breakdown in 1890

Who was Nietzsche?

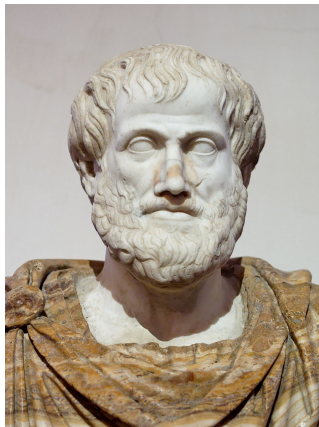
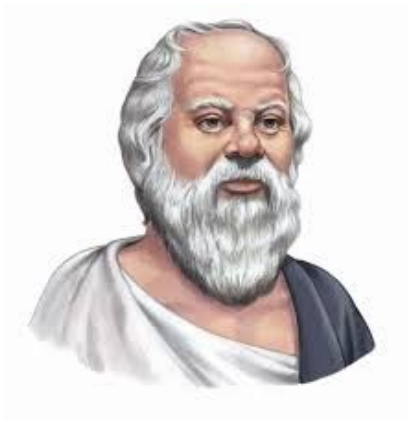


- Differing accounts on the truth of Nietzsche's health and death. Officially died by pneumonia/stroke.
 - Brain tumor, Meningitis, blood clots etc...
- Complete mental and physical instability by the end of his career.
- Woman he loves rejects marriage 3 times.
- Sister compiles most of his final works after his death. Has a hand in editing most of his famous work:
 - *The Gay Science (Joyful Wisdom)*
 - *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*
 - *Beyond Good and Evil*
 - *On the Genealogy of Morality*
 - *The Antichrist*



Nietzsche's Influences

- Nietzsche has a love/hate relationship between many philosophers
- Loves: Presocratics
- Loves/Hates: Socrates, Aristotle, Kant, Hegel
- Suggestion: Nietzsche is astonished by the power of these Philosophers



Nietzsche's Philosophy

- Things are at their best when they are acting and behaving naturally
 - Usually this means they are successful and give the appearance of order
- Think of:
 - An Oak Tree and a forest grove
 - A Wolfpack and an animal's ecosystem
 - A Blue Whale



Good vs Bad

- Dominance is natural: it is GOOD to be dominant
- Weakness and the inability to survive is BAD.
 - Weakness should be avoided in nature
- Plants and Non-human animals are perfect examples of the Good vs Bad distinction
- Before Human Civilizations: 8-10k years ago, the victors were GOOD. Tribal societies.
 - The winners determine what is GOOD because they are dominating.



Good vs Bad

- **Nietzsche:** “The strong are as naturally inclined to strive to be apart as the weak are to strive to be together; when the former unite, this takes place only with a view to an aggressive collective action and collective satisfaction of their will to power, with much resistance from their individual consciences; the latter, on the contrary, gather together with pleasure at this very gathering, - their instinct is just as satisfied in doing this as the instinct of the born 'masters' (I mean here the solitary predatory-species of man) is basically irritated and unsettled by organization.”
- This leads to what Nietzsche calls “The perversion/inversion of moral values”



Good vs Bad becomes “good” vs Evil

- Perversion of Value
- Nobles are the dominant members of society
 - They are best equipped to be GOOD
- The slave also wants to be dominate and to survive.
 - Not as well equipped as the noble
- The slave responds by REJECTING noble society - by REJECTING the GOOD (This is perverse)



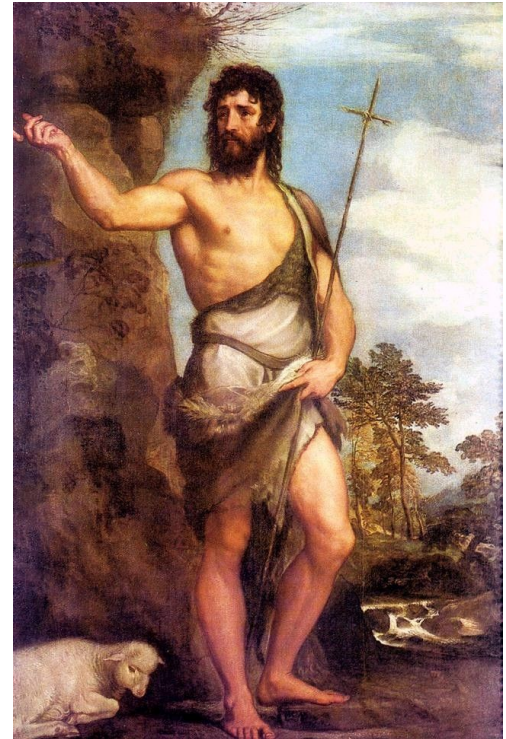
“good” vs Evil is Perverse

- The rejection of GOOD by the slave
 - Noble way of life becomes EVIL
 - Everything which is anti-dominant becomes “good”
- “Good” = temperance, patience, togetherness, inclusivity, humility, care etc...
 - Nietzsche calls this “slave” morality
- The “good” is opposed to what is naturally GOOD for humans



Priests and Religion

- Who is this?
- Priests and Poets preach the ascetic lifestyle:
 - Do no harm to your fellow neighbor
 - Resist dominance
- N: Religious teachings are an anomaly
 - Why would someone want to reject success and dominance?
 - N: Nothing else in nature would do this, it is an inversion of what we should be doing.
- N: Socrates is an anomaly



“good” vs Evil is Perverse

- The “good” opposes GOOD
 - Caring for the sick?
 - Relying upon others for help?
 - Think back to The Oak Tree
- “Good” does not value the strength of will



Nietzsche's Fascination/Fantasy

- Who is this?



Nietzsche's Fascination/Fantasy



- Better question: What is N's end-game?
- Recall: N was sick, depressed, and mentally tortured his entire life
- N would not have survived if it weren't for the "good"
 - Owes his success to a society formed around "goodness"
- "Goodness" is somewhat useless for N



Nietzsche's Fascination/Fantasy

- N is conflicted about the purpose of Morality
- N is humbled by “good” but believes the GOOD is our *nature*.
- N is fascinated with art as well.
 - What is Art's purpose?
 - Why would someone create art?
- What about Creativity?

THE CREATIVE PROCESS



Zarathustra



- Does art help us to achieve GOODness and dominance?
- Art allows us to be sensitive, appreciative, and have empathy for ourselves and others
- Art is capable of inspiring an entire civilization.
- Art and “good” mixed together are exceptionally well equipped to inspire the masses against the GOOD.

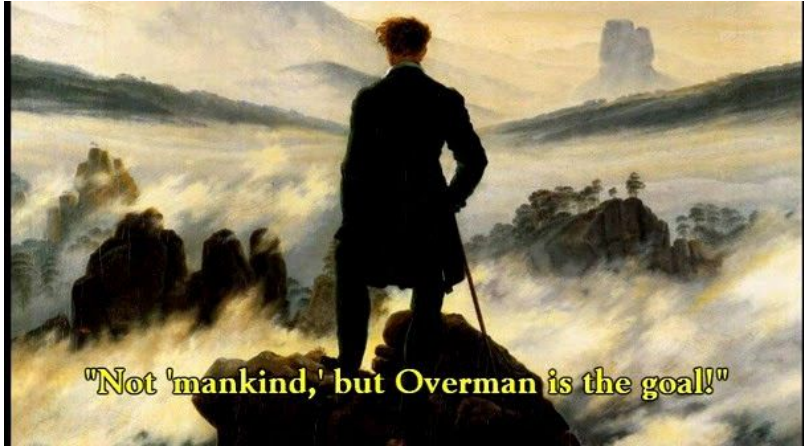


Zarathustra

- On One end man is full of emotions and care. This is why humanity is beautiful.
- Man is strung between ape and the overcomer
- N loves morality and believes it can be beautiful and powerful
 - But he is still confused about it
- The overcomer is the next stage in evolution.



The Overman



- Nietzsche believes the only way for us to evolve to the next level of our being is to eliminate the “good”.
- “Good” only holds us back technologically speaking.
- But does he really want this? Or is he just stating it?