
Post-classical European philosophy.
Irrationalism.

Lecture's plan

Post-classical European philosophy.

Period of non-classical philosophy

1. The variety of schools and concepts.
2. Irrational concept.

Philosophy of Friedrich Nietzsche

- View at the history
- Basic philosophical views and works.
- Ethics.
- Aesthetics.
- Evaluation of Nietzsche.

Academic material

Period of post-classical philosophy

Variety of schools and concepts.

- Irrationalism
- Marxism
- Philosophy of life
- Positivism and new positivism
- Philosophy of pragmatism
- Phenomenology
- Hermeneutics
- Existentialism
- Structuralism
- Psychoanalysis

Academic material

Irrationalism and Nietzsche's view at the history

Irrationalism (latin “Irrationalist” means unwise, unconscious:

- Philosophy of Arthur Schopenhauer (1788-1860). His book: «The World as Will and Representation»:
- Life is a struggle between compassion (love) and selfishness and malice.
- The world is unreasonable. It is run by the evil will.
- The world around us is subject to no reasonable forces: will, effects, etc.
- Only the will is capable to identifying all things and to influence on it. It is the basic principle of universe.

Friedrich Nietzsche (1844—1900) and his view at the history :

- **Philosopher protests against the illusion of historicism and idolatry to the facts.**
- **There are three histories:**
- **Monumental history** attempts to find the models in the past to their own satisfaction.
- **Antique history**, for example, attempts to reconstruct the past of his native city as the basis of present time.
- **Critical history** examines past in terms of judges, which are intended to remove obstacles to the realization of their goals.

Academic material

Philosophy of Friedrich Nietzsche

Philosophical views

He opposes positivism and its belief in the fact. Nietzsche believed that fact in itself is stupid . History and interpretation give the meaningfulness to the facts.

He confronts Christian morality and creates the idea of the superman. Nietzsche's philosophy appears as overturning the traditional philosophical and moral values. In the general context of Nietzsche's thoughts "will to power" does not deny the humanity and it does not justify the "pure race of superman". Superman is not a Nazi. He is philosopher, heralding the emergence of a new humanity that wants to be "beyond good and evil".

His books.

«Human, all too human» (1878).

In 1882 was published "Funny Science". Philosopher says about the new destiny of humanity.

1883 – «Thus spoke Zarathustra» , «Beyond good and evil» (1886), «Genealogy of morals» (1887), «Twilight of the idols», «Antichrist», «Ecce homo», «Nietzsche in opposition Wagner» (1888).

In Turin, fascinated by Dostoevsky, he began his latest book "Will to power", but he did not finish it.

Academic material

Aesthetics in the philosophy of Nietzsche

The secret of the Greek world

Nietzsche associates with flowering “Dionysian spirit”, with instinctive force of health, with riot of creative energy and with sensual passion in complete harmony with nature.

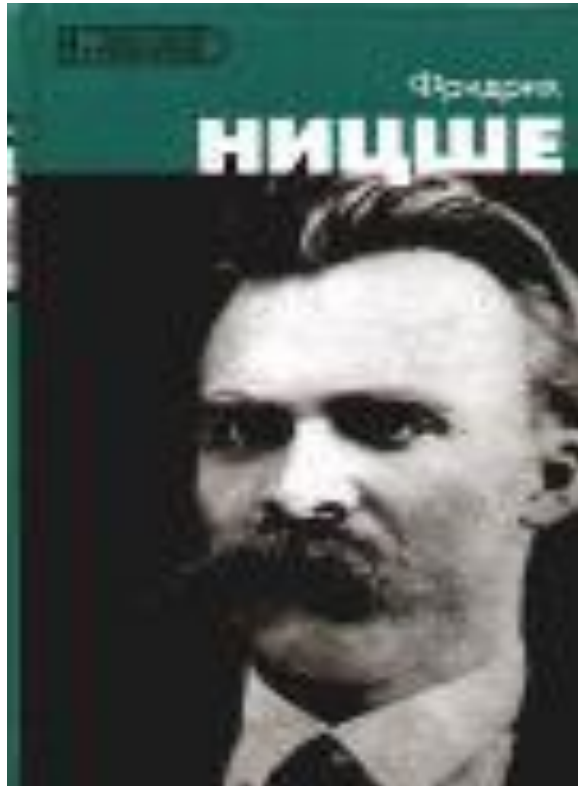
Spirit of Apollo:

This is the birth of attempts to express the meaning of things in terms of the measure and proportionality.

The dichotomy between these two principles, according to Nietzsche, has become a source of contrast, extremely important both at the beginning and at the end of Greek civilization. It is the contrast of the plastic arts (Apollo) and non-plastic art music (Dionysus)

Academic material

Ethics in Nietzsche's philosophy



In traditional morality

he saw “moral weaklings and losers slaves who rebelled against everything noble and beautiful aristocratic”

Slave morality Nietzsche opposes morality aristocrats. Say “yes” to yourself – there is a triumph of a noble morality. Slave used to saying “yes” to another, but not himself.

He criticized humanism. And he offered a philosophical program “reappraisal of values”.

Voluntarism Nietzsche is a hymn to will and power. Life lies at the heart of the will: the will to live, the will in human, ungovernable will (passion), the will to power.

Academic material

Evaluation of Nietzsche.



There were many conflicting interpretations of Nietzsche:

- He is antipositivist, undermining faith to science.**
- He is anti-democratic, despising people.**
- He is a supporter of irrationalism and vitalism.**
- He is an artist.**
- The image of a decadent aristocrat was replaced by the materialist mask. Later about Nietzsche critics began to talk as the existentialist, then as a forerunner of Freud and finally as the ideological leader of the artistic avant-garde.**

Enquired knowledge

- Knowledge of different philosophical schools and concepts of post-classical European Philosophy
- Knowledge of basic problems of the Nietzsche's philosophy
- Knowledge of tendencies of the philosophical thought in XIX-XX centuries
- Knowledge of conceptual differences between philosophical thought of classical period and philosophical thought of non-classical period.

Questions for self-examination

- Call the philosophical schools of post-classical European philosophy.
- What is the difference between the non-classical philosophy and classical philosophy?
- What is the difference between “Dionysian basis” and “Apollo basis” in culture according Nietzsche’s philosophy?
- What was the attitude of Nietzsche to the fact in history? Why?
- Tell us the problem of the “superman”.
- Why Nietzsche’s philosophy can not be called immoral?