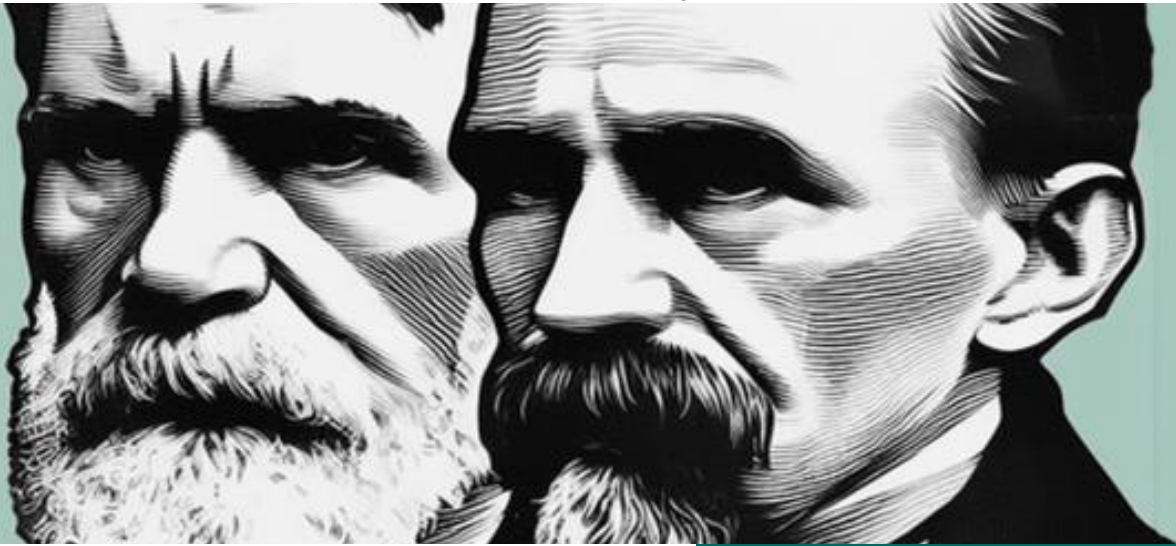


Björklunden Zoom Seminars

JULY 18 - AUG. 15, 2024



Is Civilization Good for Us?: Nietzsche, Freud, and their Discontents

Course Description

**Class held online every Thursday, 2-3:30pm*

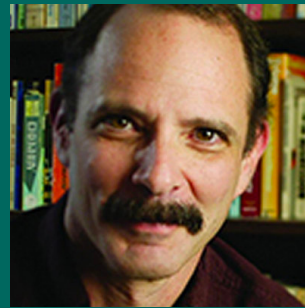
We live in a time when the question of what constitutes a 'civilized' or even 'civil' society has emerged with some urgency. Is a society based on common moral precepts possible to achieve and, if so, at what cost?

This seminar will focus on how two of the greatest thinkers of the modern age, Friedrich Nietzsche and Sigmund Freud, addressed these questions. It will also ask how their views of civilization might illuminate the tribulations of our own.

Course readings: selections from Nietzsche's 1887 work, *A Genealogy of Morals*, and Freud's 1930 work, *Civilization and its Discontents* (Norton, 2017).

[Register Here>>](#)

Instructor



Paul Cohen

Cohen is a professor emeritus in history and Patricia Hamar Boldt professor of liberal studies at Lawrence University, where he taught for 37 years. He specializes in Modern European history but has also taught courses on film and history. Between 1996 and 1998, he was Director of Lawrence's Freshman Studies Program (currently 'First Year Studies'), which introduces students to the liberal arts. He helped oversee that program's transition from its great-works-of-the-West origins in 1945 to its current multi-civilizational and multidisciplinary orientation. While he is the author of two books on the intellectual history of modern France, Professor Cohen considers himself first and foremost a teacher. In 1999, Lawrence awarded him with the Lawrence University Freshman Studies Award, and in 2008 with the Lawrence University Excellence in Teaching Award. "Teaching," he writes, "has amounted to a calling more than an occupation for me. Being a spur to student growth has been the greatest joy of my career. That, I like to think, more so than the mastery of a field of study or the preparation for a career, is what characterizes a Lawrence education at its best."

