

## STUDY QUESTIONS FOR CC.111

### Week XIII NIETZSCHE: The Crisis of Modernity

Reading: *On the Advantage and Disadvantage of History for Life*

Preface: What makes Nietzsche's reflections "untimely"?

Section 1: Why is "being able to forget" necessary for happiness? What is the significance of Nietzsche's "general law: every living thing can become healthy, strong, and fruitful only within a horizon"? What is a "horizon"? What is the "super-historical standpoint"? What is Nietzsche's standpoint?

Section 2: What is monumental history and what is its purpose? Why must monumental history deceive with analogies?

Section 3: What is antiquarian history? How does it serve life? How is it superior to restless cosmopolitanism? What is critical history? How is it dangerous?

Section 4: What is Nietzsche's picture of the spiritual events in the soul of modern man? What is the "opposition of inside and outside"? How can the higher unity of man be restored?

Section 5: What are the five ways in which history endangers life? What makes modern men a race of eunuchs? How is the modern personality weakened?

Section 6: Why does Nietzsche praise justice? What is wrong with the claim of modern man to higher and purer justice? What illusion lurks in the notion of objectivity?

Section 7: Why is a pious illusion necessary for life? Look carefully at Nietzsche's account of the education of young people today. Is there any truth to his criticisms?

Section 8: What makes us believe we are living in the old age of mankind? How has science contributed to this feeling?

Section 9: What is the danger of modern irony and cynicism?

Section 10: Why does Nietzsche trust not in genius but in youth? Why does modern education aim not at the liberally educated man but at the scholar? How does Nietzsche interpret the Delphic saying, "Know thyself"?

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