State University of New York at Stony Brook
Department of Philosophy
2013 Lecture Series

You are cordially invited to a lecture by

Christa Acampora
Hunter College and Cuny Graduate Center
Lecture:
“Nietzsche’s Responsibility”

Professor Acampora is the author of Contesting Nietzsche (University of Chicago Press, 2013). She has published five other books (three on Nietzsche and two in the areas of aesthetics and critical race theory) and numerous articles and book chapters. Her courses include upper level seminars on Nietzsche and Heidegger, existentialism, aesthetics, twentieth-century philosophy, and special topics such as Tragedy & Philosophy and a team taught course on Competition and Culture. She has taught courses in the Thomas Hunter Honors program and the Muse Scholar program. She currently chairs the Hunter College Senate.

What happens to responsibility from the standpoint of Nietzsche’s postmoralism? I understand ‘postmoralism’ to refer to a perspective Nietzsche takes on what he anticipates will follow the end of morality in its historical development. Much discussion in recent Nietzsche scholarship focuses on his conceptions of agency, freewill, and autonomy. Motivating many of these views are concerns about the fate, or consequences, for a meaningful notion of responsibility. I examine a few of what I regard as the stronger positions, arguing that a desire to save Nietzsche from himself is at work in those interpretations, resulting in a distortion of what Nietzsche himself regarded as some of his most important ideas. In short, the picture of agency for which Nietzsche is responsible, radically undermines traditional notions of moral responsibility. Nevertheless, I do find another sense of responsibility in play in Nietzsche’s thought. I sketch the outlines of this and suggest how it is relevant to some other views in contemporary philosophy.

Thursday, October 3rd, 2013
5:00 pm
Harriman Hall 214