The course will revolve around three major thinkers in the history of Western philosophy: Plato, Marx, and Nietzsche, but with lectures to fill in some of the historical gaps between ancient and modern philosophy. We will also read an important recent book on "cosmopolitanism," that is, global amity. We will ask: which of the three philosophers provides the most promising basis or political ethics for unifying the diverse peoples and other inhabitants (animals, natural formations) of the globe? There are, of course, many twists and turns in the way I've formulated the question; and part of our task will be to sort them out.

Evaluation of student work will be based on your papers and/or in-class exams, one-page responses to selected "guide questions" intended to help you master the readings, a term paper linking our three philosophers and cosmopolitanism, participation in class discussions, and attendance. The books required for the course are listed below.

ENSAMBLAJES Oswaldo Viteri (Ecuador)


