

# Philosophy Lecture Series

Sponsored by the SC Coastal Conservation League and the Department of Philosophy at the College of Charleston



## Why Does Nietzsche Think the Will to Power is So Important?

Thursday, 10/29/15 at 6:30pm, Alumni Memorial Hall (Randolph Hall)

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Nietzsche claims that “life is will to power,” evidently meaning that the behavior of all living things is a striving after power. And this is apparently fine with him. “What is good,” he says, is “everything that heightens the feeling of power in man, the will to power, power itself.” But isn’t this a dangerous idea? Doesn’t it encourage the idea that we humans can do whatever we want to the environment? After all, our behavior simply expresses our will to power, which is apparently what we are. Furthermore, doesn’t it encourage the human addiction to the feeling of power, to the feeling we get, for instance, from whipping the world into shape according to our needs and desires? So how can I expect environmentalists—or anyone else sensitive to the problems that arise from an addiction to the feeling of power (e.g., the preference for bombs over negotiation)—to have any initial sympathy with Nietzsche’s claims about and evaluation of the will to power? I can’t. And that is the reason I’ve decided to try to convince you that Nietzsche’s claims about the will to power are more interesting and complex than they might initially seem, and very much worth taking seriously.