

The Sociology of Michel Foucault

Soc. 294 — Spring 2009

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The goal of this seminar is to develop a critical appreciation of the sociology of Michel Foucault. This course will consist of a systematic reading of Foucault's major works. We will read in more or less chronological order, *Madness and Civilization*, *The Order of Things*, *The Archeology of Knowledge*, *Discipline and Punish* and all 3 volumes of the *History of Sexuality*. In addition we'll pair this reading with some critical commentaries, the most important of which are two books that are ordered for the class Hubert Dreyfuss & Paul Rabinow, *Michel Foucault: Beyond structuralism & hermeneutics* and Graham Burchell (et. al.) *The Foucault Effect*.

The course will meet in the sociology conference room on Friday mornings from 9:00-noon. All of the above texts are required for the course and available for purchase at the UCen bookstore.

A paper is required to obtain a grade in the class. The details of the paper topic will be discussed in class. In addition seminar members are asked to take turns as primary readers for each class. The primary readers will have the added responsibility of providing reading suggestions in advance of the class for which they are the responsible readers. Details will be discussed in the seminar. The grade for the seminar will be split such that the paper is worth about 2/3s of the grade and class participation (including primary reader duties) will be worth about 1/3 of the grade.

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| Week 1 (April 3) | Course Introduction and Overview. |
| Week 2 (April 10) | No Class |
| Week 3 (April 17) | The Early Foucault:
Required Readings:

Foucault, <i>Madness & Civilization</i> .
Dreyfus and Rabinow, (introduction, chp. 1). |
| Week 4 (April 24) | Foucault as Structural Theorist.
Required Readings:

Foucault, <i>The Order of Things</i> .
Dreyfus and Rabinow, (chp. 2, 3). |
| Week 5 (May 1) | Foucault as Structural Theorist (cont):
Required Readings:

Foucault, <i>The Archeology of Knowledge</i> .
Dreyfus and Rabinow, (chp. 4, 5). |

Week 6 (May 8)

Power and the Body.

Required Readings:

Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*
Foucault, *Power/Knowledge*. (chp. 3).
Dreyfus and Rabinow, (chp. 6, 7).

Week 7 (May 15)

Foucault on Sexuality and the Self.

Required Readings:

Foucault, *History of Sexuality: Vol. 1*.
Foucault, *Power/Knowledge*. (chp 10).
Dreyfus and Rabinow, (chp. 8,9, conclusion).

Week 8 (May 22)

Foucault on Sexuality and the Self (cont).

Required Readings:

Foucault, *History of Sexuality: Vol. 2*.
Foucault, *Power/Knowledge*. (chp. 11).

Week 9 (May 29)

Foucault on Sexuality and the Self (cont).

Required Readings:

Foucault, *History of Sexuality: Vol. 3*.
Foucault, *Power/Knowledge*. (chp 9).

Week 10 (June 5)

The Foucault Effect.

Required Readings:

Graham Burchell et. al., *The Foucault Effect*.
Foucault, *Power/Knowledge*. (chp. 5, 6, afterward).