

Philosophy 336: CONTEMPORARY FRENCH PHILOSOPHY

Spring, 2005

Professor: Alan Schrift

Office: Steiner 311

Office Hours: T-TH 1:30-3:00

Topic: "Foucault and the turn to ethics"

Required Texts

Discipline and Punish

The History of Sexuality

The Use of Pleasure

The Care of the Self

Essential Works of Foucault, Volume 1: Ethics

Essential Works of Foucault, Volume 3: Power

Course Description

This course will be an advanced seminar examining the "ethical turn" in Foucault's work that marked the transformation from his "genealogical" period, associated with the analysis of power in his most influential texts—*Discipline and Punish* and the first volume of *The History of Sexuality*—to his final published works and late essays and interviews, focused on the themes of subjectivation (*assujétissement*), governmentality, and the care and technologies of the self. Attention will be paid to the "problems" in Foucault's genealogical project that motivated his turn toward ethics, and to whether his ethical turn should be seen as a continuation of his Nietzschean genealogical trajectory or a renunciation of his Nietzschean commitments.

Course Requirements

This course is organized as a seminar, which means that active student participation is both expected and required. There will be a good deal of reading, and students will be expected to do all of the assigned reading and to come to class ready to discuss and/or ask questions about what they read. Formal work for the class will include the following:

1. Two Seminar Presentations (15%/20%):

The seminar presentation will consist of a 3-5 page written summary of the reading assigned for class. This summary should be submitted electronically to the **Blackboard** by 5:00pm on the day before class, in time to be read by members of the class, and will be read in class. In addition to summarizing the assigned reading, the written summary can (and should) raise questions for discussion. These questions can be exegetical (e.g., "what does Foucault mean when he says that the 'soul is the prison of the body'?"), critical (e.g., "is Foucault correct in his rejection of the Freudian/Lacanian account of desire?"), or

associative/comparative (e.g., “how does Foucault’s analysis of ‘discipline’ relate to Deleuze’s analysis of ‘control’?”).

2. Term Paper: 18-20 page research paper, due May 11 (35%). No extensions will be granted except for medical emergency. The topic for this paper will be determined by the student in consultation with the instructor. In connection with this final paper, keep in mind the following requirements/deadlines:

April 6: turn in a one-paragraph description of topic with annotated bibliography.

April 13: turn in detailed outline.

April 20: turn in 2 copies (one anonymous) of a 5-page thesis statement that describes your project in some detail. One copy will be evaluated by the instructor, and one copy will be evaluated by a fellow student.

April 25 turn in comments on one another’s thesis statements (xerox final page summary and submit this to the instructor).

May 13: Paper Due. Please submit two copies.

3. Seminar Report: a 15-20 minute summary presentation of your final paper (15%).

4. Position Papers/Class Participation: each week that you don’t make a seminar presentation, submit on Thursday a one-page typed comment on some aspect of the reading of that week (15%).

5. Blackboard Discussion: once a week, you will be asked to submit a discussion question by 10:00am to the class “Bulletin Board” on the web:

<http://web.grinnell.edu/courses/phi/s02/phi336-01/>. These questions will allow all seminar participants to get a sense for what topics and sections are drawing attention and interest from other members of the seminar.

The final grade will be determined on the basis of these writing assignments and general performance in class during the course of the semester.

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Course Outline for Discussion Board

Date	Assignment
Jan. 24:	Introduction
Jan. 26:	<i>Discipline and Punish</i> , Part One
Jan. 31:	<i>Discipline and Punish</i> , Part Two
Feb. 2:	<i>Discipline and Punish</i> , Part Three, Chapters 1-2
Feb. 7:	<i>Discipline and Punish</i> , Part Three, Chapter 3 Part Four, Chapter 1
Feb. 9:	<i>Discipline and Punish</i> , Part Four, Chapters 2-3
Feb. 14:	<i>History of Sexuality</i> , pp. 1-49
Feb. 16:	<i>History of Sexuality</i> , pp. 51-131
Feb. 21:	<i>History of Sexuality</i> , pp. 133-159
Feb. 23:	<i>Power</i> : 'The Politics of Health in the Eighteenth Century' <i>Ethics</i> : 'The Courses,' pp. 5-86
Feb. 28:	<i>Power</i> : 'Truth and Power' ' <i>Omnes et Singulatum</i> '
Mar. 2:	<i>Power</i> : 'Governmentality' 'Questions of Method'
Mar. 7:	<i>Ethics</i> : 'The Courses,' pp. 87-106 <i>The Use of Pleasure</i> , Introduction <i>Ethics</i> : 'Preface to <i>The History of Sexuality</i> , Vol. Two
Mar. 9:	<i>The Use of Pleasure</i> , Parts One and Two
Mar. 14:	<i>The Use of Pleasure</i> , Parts Three and Four
Mar. 16:	<i>The Use of Pleasure</i> , Part Five and Conclusion
Mar.18 - Apr. 3	Spring Vacation
Apr. 4:	<i>The Care of the Self</i> , Part One and Two
Apr. 6:	<i>The Care of the Self</i> , Part Three and Four

- Apr. 11: *The Care of the Self*, Part Five, Six, and Conclusion
- Apr. 13: *Ethics*: “Technologies of the Self”
- Apr. 18: *Ethics*: “On the Genealogy of Ethics”
“Polemics, Politics, and Problematizations”
- Apr. 20: *Power*: “The Subject and Power”
- Apr. 25: *Ethics*: “The Ethics of Concern for the Self as a Practice of Freedom”
“What is Enlightenment?”