Honors 2013, Spring 2012: Foucault Reading Response, Jan 23: Reading 1: "Short Biographical Sketch" on website

- 1. What's at stake in Foucault's having been gay?
- 2. What were the important aspects of the PCF in the late 1945-1960 period in France?
- 3. What happened in May 1968 and how did these "events" affect Foucault?

Honors 2013, Spring 2012: Foucault Reading Response, Jan 25: Reading 6: "Introduction" to *Power* volume

- 1. Why is "the apparent neutrality and political invisibility of technique of power" so dangerous? (page xv)
- 2. What is the relation of power, knowledge, and "the subject"? (page xv)
- 3. What does Foucault think about "resistance"? (page xx)

Honors 2013, Spring 2012: Foucault Reading Response, Jan 30: Reading 7: Part I, Ch 1 of *Discipline and Punish* 

- 1. What is important about the guillotine (13)?
- 2. What are the characteristics of the "micro-physics of power" (26-27)?
- 3. How are power and knowledge related (27)?
- 4. What is the "modern soul" (29)?

Honors 2013, Spring 2012: Foucault Reading Response, Feb 1: Reading 7: Part I, Ch 2 of *Discipline and Punish* 

- 1. How are the body, torture (as investigation and as punishment), and truth related (42)?
- 2. How is public execution a manifestation of power leading to "terror" (47-49)?
- 3. What is the ambiguous role of the public in such executions (58-59)?

Honors 2013, Spring 2012: Foucault Reading Response, Feb 6: Reading 7: Part II of *Discipline and Punish* 

- 1. What was the objective of the reform movement (80-82)?
- 2. What is the new target of power (101)?
- 3. What are the three technologies of power co-existing in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century (130-131)?

Honors 2013, Spring 2012: Foucault Reading Response, Feb 8: Reading 7: Part III, Ch 1 of *Discipline and Punish* 

- 1. What is "docility"? How does discipline join 2 different approaches to the body and produce a "docile body"? (136-138)
- 2. What are the four characteristics and four techniques of discipline? (167)
- 3. What is the relation of politics and war? (168)
- 4. What is the military dream of society? (169)

Honors 2013, Spring 2012: Foucault Reading Response, Feb 13: Reading 7: Part III, Ch 2-3 of *Discipline and Punish* 

- 1. How does disciplinary examination, which links hierarchical observation and normalizing judgment, provide for a reversal of the relation of individualization and power? (192-194)
- 2. How does discipline "treat lepers like plague victims"? (199)
- 3. How was it that "the real corporeal disciplines constituted the foundation of the formal, juridical liberties"? (222)

Honors 2013, Spring 2012: Foucault Reading Response, Feb 15: Reading 7: Part IV of *Discipline and Punish* 

- 1. How is the "delinquent" constituted? (254-255)
- 2. What is the four-fold "carceral system"? How does it include both the "failures" and the "reforms" of the prison? (271)
- 3. How does the "carceral city" (and its "power of normalization") differ from the torture regime and the "city of punishment" of the reformers? (307-308)

Honors 2013, Spring 2012: Foucault Reading Response, Feb 22: Reading 10: "The Subject and Power"

- 1. What are the original factors at stake in new resistances to individualizing practices? (330-331)
- 2. How does the modern state become individualizing by integrating new forms of pastoral power? (332-335)
- 3. How do the terms "conduct" and "government" capture the specificity of power relations relative to consensual and to violent relations, such that "freedom" is at stake? (340-4)

Honors 2013, Spring 2012: Foucault Reading Response, Feb 27: Reading 8, Part I of *History of Sexuality, vol. 1* 

- 1. What are the main points of the "discourse on modern sexual repression" (3-5)?
- 2. What is the connection of repression and capitalism, according to this discourse? How does that link allow for a promise of "revolution" (5-7)?
- 3. Explain how, in order to "define the regime of power-knowledge-pleasure that sustains the discourse on human sexuality in our part of the world" (11), Foucault will look at discursive production, production of power, and propagation of knowledge (12).

Honors 2013, Spring 2012: Foucault Reading Response, Feb 29: Reading 8, Part II of *History of Sexuality, vol.* 1

- 1. What is the relation of "population" and "sex"? (25-26)
- 2. What does Foucault mean when he says "the sodomite had been a temporary aberration; the homosexual was now a species"? (43)
- 3. How do certain power-knowledge practices turn 19<sup>th</sup> century bourgeois society into a society of "perversion"? Where do the "perversions" come from? (47-48)

Honors 2013, Spring 2012: Foucault Reading Response, March 5: Reading 8, Part III of *History of Sexuality, vol. 1* 

- 1. What is the difference between an *ars erotica* and a *scientia sexualis*? (57-58)
- 2. How does the example of confession in a "political history of truth" make us rethink the relation of power, truth, and freedom? (59-60)
- 3. How does Foucault's "general working hypothesis" co-ordinate sex, truth, and knowledge of ourselves? (69-70)

Honors 2013, Spring 2012: Foucault Reading Response, March 7: Reading 8, Part IV of *History of Sexuality, vol. 1* 

- 1. What are the principal traits of the "juridical" representation of power? What is the desired effect of its modes? Why is it so readily accepted? (82-86)
- 2. What are the four "great strategic unities" of power-knowledge practices producing "sexuality" (103-105)? What is "sexuality" as a "historical construct" made up out of? (105-106)
- 3. Foucault claims that the bourgeoisie imposed "sexuality" on itself first and then only on the working classes later. Why did they do that? (122-124)

Honors 2013, Spring 2012: Foucault Reading Response, March 12: Reading 8, Part V of *History of Sexuality, vol. 1* 

- 1. Why does the sword symbolize "sovereign power"? How does it relate to a "right of seizure"? (135-136)
- 2. How do modern wars and the problem of the death penalty show us the outlines of "biopower"? (136-139)
- 3. What are the two poles of biopower? (139)

Honors 2013, Spring 2012: Foucault Reading Response, March 14: Reading 8, Part V of *History of Sexuality, vol. 1* 

- 1. How do the two poles of biopower enable us to understand sex as a political issue? (145-147)
- 2. What does Foucault say about racism? (149)
- 3. How does the idea of "sex" as biological reality fit into the power-knowledge practices of "sexuality"? (151-157)

Honors 2013, Spring 2012: Foucault Reading Response, March 19: Reading 9, Lectures 1-2 of "Society Must be Defended"

- 1. What is "economism" in models of power? (13-14)
- 2. What are the two alternatives to "economistic" models? (14-16)
- 3. What is the relation of sovereign power to disciplinary power? (34-37)

Honors 2013, Spring 2012: Foucault Reading Response, March 21: Reading 9, Lectures 3-4 of "Society Must be Defended"

- 1. What is the basic content of the "social war" discourse? (50-51)
- 2. What does Foucault say about "actual racism"? (80-83)

Honors 2013, Spring 2012: Foucault Reading Response, March 26: Reading 9, Lecture 5 of "Society Must be Defended"

- 1. How is Hobbes's "war of all against all" merely a "theater"? (89-93)
- 2. How does Hobbes's use the series of "will, fear, and sovereignty" (96) eliminate the fact of the Norman Conquest from his philosophy (97-99)?
- 3. Who are the three main groups who use the Norman Conquest as part of their "social war" discourse? (101-109)

Honors 2013, Spring 2012: Foucault Reading Response, March 28: Reading 9, Lecture 11 of "Society Must be Defended"

- 1. What are the characteristics of "biopolitics"? (243-245)
- 2. What are the three important points of this new form of power? (245-247)
- 3. Why does the modern state need "modern racism" to justify its violence? How is this displayed in Nazi Germany and the Stalinist Soviet Union? (254-263)

Honors 2013, Spring 2012: Foucault Reading Response, April 2: Reading 12, "The Birth of Social Medicine"

- 1. Why does Foucault object to the usual story of the relation of capitalism and medicine? (136)
- 2. What two factors explain why Germany developed a "modern state" before France and Germany? (138-139)
- 3. What factors played a role in the unification of urban authority in France? (143-144)
- 4. When and why did poverty become a political problem such that residential patterns in cities become segregated by wealth? (152)

Honors 2013, Spring 2012: Foucault Reading Response, April 4, Reading 13: "Governmentality"

- 1. What are the four new topics of the "art of governing" in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century? What two historical processes that lead to this expansion? (201-202)
- 2. What does Foucault mean when he says that with the emergence of "population" the family is no longer a model, but a segment and an instrument for "government"? (216)
- 3. What are the three "great economies of power in the West" that can be retrospectively seen from the perspective of the modern "governmentalized state"? (221)

Honors 2013, Spring 2012: Foucault Reading Response, April 16: Reading 14: "Omnes et Singulatim"

- 1. Explain how Foucault thinks the modern state combines both legal power and pastoral power. (307; 311)
- 2. What are the four important aspects of Justi's theory of "police"? (322-323)
- 3. What are the four assumptions of Foucault's approach? (324-325)

Honors 2013, Spring 2012: Foucault Reading Response, April 18: Reading 15: Intro and Ch 1 of *Foucault Beyond Foucault* 

- 1. How is "subjective identity" or "who you are" now seen? (5-6)
- 2. Explain how consumerism changed from conformism to individualism. (11-12)
- 3. How does Nealon present the main lines of Foucault's relation to Marx? (20-21)

Honors 2013, Spring 2012: Foucault Reading Response, April 23: Reading 15: Ch 2 of *Foucault Beyond Foucault* 

- 1. What is targeted in discipline as opposed to sovereign power? (30-31; 36; 43)
- 2. What is a "power relation"? Give an example from DP and from your own experience. (37)
- 3. How does biopower multiple potential guilty subjects? (47)
- 4. What is the relation of normalization and the abnormal? (51)

Honors 2013, Spring 2012: Foucault Reading Response, April 25: Reading 15: Ch 3 of *Foucault Beyond Foucault* 

- 1. What are the major characteristics of the  $3^{rd}$  stage of capitalism? How does it differ from the  $2^{nd}$  stage? (60-61)
- 2. What are the major characteristics of 4<sup>th</sup> stage capitalism? (62-64) How does it make us into producers rather than consumers? (66-67)
- 3. How is panoptic discipline spread out throughout the society instead of being inside institutions like schools, factories, etc? (68)

Honors 2013, Spring 2012: Foucault Reading Response, April 30: Reading 15: Ch 4 of *Foucault Beyond Foucault* 

- 1. What is "real subsumption" and what is its link to biopower? (84-85)
- 2. What are some examples of the "cultural privatization of value? (86-88)
- 3. What is the relation of economics, biopower, and private subjectivity? (90-92)