

- LSU Spring 2020 / FREN 7410.1 / Syllabus 1.0: January 14, 2020

Spring 2020 FREN 7410: Foucault, Biopower, and Neoliberalism

John Protevi / Class meetings: TTh 1:30-2:50 pm in 434 Hodges

Office hours: TTh 12:10-1:30 pm and by appointment in 408 Hodges

<http://www.protevi.com/john/Foucault/index.html> / protevi@lsu.edu

The course will be a sustained interrogation of Michel Foucault's concept of biopower and its relation to "neoliberalism." Among the topics covered will be race, mass incarceration, and disability. Discussion will be in English. I will order the French versions of books and allow Francophone students to write their papers in French and to converse with me in French during office hours.

ASSIGNMENTS

Instructor and students will agree on the number and length of writing assignments that will determine 75% of the final grade, with the remaining 25% coming from seminar presentations

READING LIST

Note on readings. We will all read the Foucault books, but we'll divide up the rest to class members for presentations; the people not doing presentations that day can skim the readings.

FOUCAULT

- *Discipline and Punish*
- "Society Must be Defended"
- *History of Sexuality, volume 1*
- *Security, Territory, Population*
- *Birth of Biopolitics*

BIOPOWER

- *Biopower and Subjectivation*
 - Kevin Thompson, "The Spiritual Disciplines of Biopower." *Radical Philosophy Review* 7 (2004): 59-76.
 - Nikolas Rose, "The Biopolitics of Life Itself," *Theory, Culture, & Society* (2001) 18.6:1-30.
 - Chloë Taylor, "Biopower," in Dianna Taylor, ed. *Michel Foucault: Key Concepts*. Acumen, 2011: 41-54
- *Race and Racism*
 - Ann Laura Stoler, *Race and the Education of Desire: Foucault's History of Sexuality and the Colonial Order of Things*, Duke UP, 1995.
 - Achille Mbembe, "Necropolitics," *Public Culture*, 15.1, Winter 2003, 11-40

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 - Jeremy W Crampton, "Maps, Race, and Foucault: Eugenics and Territorialization Following WWI," in Jeremy W Crampton and Stuart Elden, eds. *Space, Knowledge, and Power: Foucault and Geography*. Routledge, 2016 (reprint of Ashgate 2007 edition): 223-244.
 - Ladelle McWhorter, "From Scientific Racism to Neoliberal Biopolitics: Using Foucault's Toolkit," *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy and Race*
 - Chloë Taylor, "Race and Racism in Foucault's Collège de France Lectures," *Philosophy Compass* 6.11 (2011): 746-756
 - Mary Beth Mader, "Modern Living and Vital Race: Foucault and the Science of Life," *Foucault Studies* 12 (Sept 2011): 97-112
 - Verena Erlenbusch-Anderson, "From Race War to Socialist Racism: Foucault's Second Transcription," *Foucault Studies* 22 (Jan 2017): 134-152
- *Biopolitics and "Life"*
 - Bruce Braun, "Biopolitics and the molecularization of life," *Cultural Geographies* 14 (2007) 6-28.
 - Paul Rabinow and Nikolas Rose, "Thoughts on the Concept of Biopower Today," *BioSocieties* (2006), vol. 1, 195-217
 - Thomas Lemke, "Rethinking Biopolitics: The New Materialism and the Political Economy of Life." In Wilmer, S. and Zukauskaitė, A. (eds.), *Resisting Biopolitics: Philosophical, Political, and Performative Strategies*, New York: Routledge, 2016: 57-73.
- *Mass Incarceration*
 - Angela Davis, "Racialized Punishment and Prison Abolition." In Joy James, ed., *The Angela Davis Reader*, Blackwell, 1996: 96-107
 - Loïc Wacquant, "From Slavery to Mass Incarceration," *New Left Review* 13 (2002) 41-60
- *Disability*
 - Shelley Tremain, "On the Government of Disability," *Social Theory and Practice*, 27.4 (October 2001): 617-636.
 - Shelley Tremain, "This Is What a Historicist and Relativist Feminist Philosophy of Disability Looks Like" *Foucault Studies* 19 (June 2015):7-42.
 - Abram Anders, "Foucault and 'the Right to Life': From Technologies of Normalization to Societies of Control," *Disability Studies Quarterly* 33.3 (2013) <http://dsq-sds.org/article/view/3340/3268>

TRANSITION

- Vanessa Lemm and Miguel Vatter (eds.), *The Government of Life: Foucault, Biopolitics, and Neoliberalism*, Fordham University Press, 2014
- Gilles Deleuze, "Postscript on Societies of Control," *October* 59 (Win. 1992): 3-7.
- Jeffrey Nealon, *Foucault Beyond Foucault*, Stanford University Press, 2007

NEOLIBERALISM

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- *Neoliberalism and subjectivity*
 - Jason Read, "A Genealogy of *Homo-Economicus*: Neoliberalism and the Production of Subjectivity." *Foucault Studies* 6 (February 2009): 25-36
 - Terry Flew, "Michel Foucault's 'the birth of biopolitics' and contemporary neo-liberalism debates," *Thesis Eleven* 108.1 (2012): 44-65
 - Andrew Dilts, "From 'Entrepreneur of the Self' to 'Care of the Self': Neo-Liberal Governmentality and Foucault's Ethics." *Foucault Studies*, 12 (2011): 130-46
 - Michael C Behrent, "Can the Critique of Capitalism be Antihumanist?" *History & Theory* 54.3 (2015): 372-388.
 - John Protevi, "Foucault on Neoliberalism and the Art of Governing," <http://www.protevi.com/john/FoucaultNeoliberalismExtract.pdf>

- *Foucault and the Chicago School / Gary Becker*
 - François Ewald, "Foucault and Neoliberalism": [link to columbia.edu website](#)
 - Gary Becker, François Ewald, and Bernard Harcourt, "Becker on Ewald on Foucault on Becker," *The Carceral Notebooks* 7, (2011): 1-35. http://www.thecarceral.org/cn7_Becker_Ewald_Conversation.pdf
 - David Newheiser, "Foucault, Gary Becker and the Critique of Neoliberalism," *Theory, Culture & Society* 33.5 (2016): 3-21.

- *Post-disciplinary Incarceration practices*
 - Andrew Dilts, "Michel Foucault meets Gary Becker: Criminality Beyond *Discipline and Punish*," *The Carceral Notebooks* 4 (2008): 77-100. http://www.thecarceral.org/cn4_dilts.pdf
 - Andrew Dilts, "Death Penalty "Abolition" in Neoliberal Times: The SAFE California Act and the Nexus of Savings and Security," in *Death and Other Penalties: Philosophy in a Time of Mass Incarceration*, ed. Geoffrey Adelsberg, Lisa Guenther, and Scott Zeman. Fordham University Press, 2015: 106-129.
 - G. Becker, F. Ewald, and B. Harcourt, "Becker and Foucault on Crime and Punishment," *The Carceral Notebooks* 9 (2013): 5-45. http://www.thecarceral.org/cn9/cn9_Becker_et_al_Published_Final.pdf
 - Loïc Wacquant, "Bourdieu, Foucault, and the Penal State in the Neoliberal Era," in Daniel Zamora and Michael C Behrent, *Foucault and Neoliberalism*, Polity, 2016, 114-133. <https://www4.shu.ac.uk/research/cresr/sites/shu.ac.uk/files/bourdieu-foucault-penal-state.pdf>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- *Web resources*
 - *Foucault News*, by Clare O'Farrell: <https://michel-foucault.com/author/moonmobile/>
 - *Progressive Geographies*, by Stuart Elden: <https://progressivegeographies.com/category/thinkers/michel-foucault/>

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 - *Foucault Studies*: <https://rauli.cbs.dk/index.php/foucault-studies/index>
 - *The Carceral Notebooks*: <http://www.thecarceral.org/index2.html>
 - *Abolition: A Journal of Insurgent Politics*:
<https://journal.abolitionjournal.org/index.php/abolition>
 - Foucault course materials:
<http://www.protevi.com/john/Foucault/index.html>
 - Columbia Law School discussions of Foucault's lecture courses: 13/13:
<http://blogs.law.columbia.edu/foucault1313/>
 - Audio, transcripts, and English translations from Purdue University of
[Deleuze's course on Foucault](#)

- *Work on or relevant to Foucault*
 - Gilles Deleuze, *Foucault*, Paris: Minuit, 1986 (Very untrustworthy translation from University of Minnesota Press, 1988)
 - Stuart Elden 'Governmentality, calculation, territory.', *Environment and planning D : society and space*, 25.3 (2007). pp. 562-580.
 - Stuart Elden, "How should we do the history of territory?" *Territory, Politics, Governance*, 2013. Vol. 1, No. 1, 5–20
 - Amy Allen, "Foucault and Enlightenment: A Critical Reappraisal." *Constellations* 10.2 (2003): 180-198.
 - Christopher Falzon, Timothy O'Leary, and Jana Sawicki, eds., *A Companion to Foucault*, Blackwell, 2012
 - Nicolae Morar, Thomas Nail, and Daniel W Smith, eds., *Between Deleuze and Foucault*, Edinburgh, 2016
 - Daniel Zamora and Michael C Behrent, eds., *Foucault and Neoliberalism*, Polity, 2016
 - Bernard Harcourt, *The Illusion of Free Markets: Punishment and the Myth of Natural Order*, Harvard, 2012
 - Thomas Lemke, *Biopolitics: An Advanced Introduction*, NYU Press, 2011
 - Stuart Elden, *Foucault: The Birth of Power*, Polity, 2017
 - LSE review:
<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/lsereviewofbooks/2017/08/01/book-review-foucault-the-birth-of-power-by-stuart-elden/>
 - Stuart Elden, *Foucault: The Last Decade*, Polity, 2016
 - Interview with Elden: <http://www.critical-theory.com/foucaults-last-decade-an-interview-with-stuart-elden/>
 - Miguel de Beistegui, *The Government of Desire: A Genealogy of the Liberal Subject*, University of Chicago Press, 2018.
 - NDPR review: <https://ndpr.nd.edu/news/the-government-of-desire-a-genealogy-of-the-liberal-subject/>
 - Melinda Cooper, *Family Values: Between Neoliberalism and the New Social Conservatism*, MIT Press 2019
 - <https://www.viewpointmag.com/2018/03/19/family-matters/>

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CLASS SCHEDULE

DAY	TOPIC
T 14 Jan	NO CLASS MEETING
Th 16 Jan	INTRODUCTION
T 21 Jan	<i>Discipline and Punish</i>
Th 23 Jan	<i>Discipline and Punish</i>
T 28 Jan	<i>"Society Must Be Defended"</i>
Th 30 Jan	<i>"Society Must Be Defended"</i>
T 4 Feb	<i>History of Sexuality volume 1</i>
Th 6 Feb	<i>History of Sexuality volume 2</i>
T 11 Feb	<i>Security, Territory, Population</i>
Th 13 Feb	<i>Security, Territory, Population</i>
T 25 Feb	NO CLASS - MARDI GRAS
Th 27 Feb	<i>Birth of Biopolitics</i>
T 3 Mar	<i>Birth of Biopolitics</i>
Th 5 Mar	Presentations
T 10 Mar	Presentations
Th 12 Mar	Presentations
T 17 Mar	Presentations
Th 19 Mar	Presentations
T 24 Mar	Presentations
Th 26 Mar	Presentations
T 19 Mar	Presentations
Th 21 Mar	Presentations
T 24 Mar	SPRING BREAK
Th 26 Mar	SPRING BREAK
T 31 Mar	Presentations
Th 2 Apr	Presentations
T 7 Apr	Presentations
Th 9 Apr	Presentations
T 14 Apr	Presentations
Th 16 Apr	Presentations
T 21 Apr	Presentations
Th 23 Apr	Presentations
T 28 Apr	Presentations
Th 30 Apr	CLASS WRAP-UP
F 8 May	FINAL PAPERS DUE

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GRADING COMPONENTS:

Presentations: 25%

Papers (students choose to do 1, 2, or 3 papers): 75%

GRADING SCALE A+ 100 - 97; A = 96.9 - 93; A- = 92.9 - 90 // B+ 89.9 - 87; B = 86.9 - 83; B- 82.9 - 80 // C+ 79.9 - 77; C = 76.9 - 73; C- 72.9 - 70 // D+ 69.9 - 67; D = 66.9 - 63; D- 62.9 - 60 // F = 59.9

RESOURCES, RIGHTS, AND RESPONSIBILITIES

LSU and Title IX:

http://www.lsu.edu/hrm/policies_and_procedures/Title_IX_item71081.php

LSU Cares: <http://students.lsu.edu/saa/lsu-cares>

LSU Disability Services: <http://students.lsu.edu/disability>

LSU Statement on Academic Integrity:

<http://students.lsu.edu/saa/faculty/academicintegrity>

LSU Student Advocacy: Understanding Plagiarism

<http://students.lsu.edu/saa/students/plagiarism>

Hints for success: <http://www.protevi.com/john/honorshints.html>