Philosophy 4450: Foucault
Gabriel Soldatenko, Asst. Prof. of Philosophy
TR 11:00-12:15, Room: SO 2033, Fall 2012

Office Hours: Wednesday 8:00-9:00, Tuesday 8:00-10:00, and by appointment.
Social Science #4091

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Course Description: This course, in broad brushstrokes, outlines the dimensions and
highlights the major themes of French philosopher Michel Foucault's thought. Foucault is
arguably the most influential philosopher of the second half of the twentieth century, and
one the major influences on the development of postmodernism. With any thinker who was
as proficient and influential as Foucault it is always difficult to make a first entry, and so this
course takes an analytical approach that will emphasize Foucault's formative influences,
chronologically follow his major works, and trace the development of his philosophical
interests, methods, and insights.

Texts: All course materials will be provided through Georgia View. Note that the cost you
save in not having to buy books may be incurred through printing and photocopying.

Course Requirements: Over the course of the semester students

- will bring the days reading to class according to the schedule on the syllabus and/or
  the professor's instructions;
- will actively engage the course material and participate in the class discussion; and
- will attend class regularly, even if attendance is not taken.

Student Learning Outcomes: By the end of the term students will have gained

- a general knowledge of the major influences that informed Foucault's philosophical
development;
- a general understanding of Foucault's two major methodological devices:
  "archaeology" and "genealogy";
- a clear sense of the three themes that organize Foucault's corpus: discourse, power,
  and the care of the self;
- a rich sense, and appreciation for, the utility of the philosophical concepts of
  "discourse" and "power"; and
- a broad awareness of how Foucault altered the landscape of Western critical social
  theory.

Evaluation: There will be two take-home exams, which will account for 50% of the final
grade. In addition, there will be weekly homework assignments that will account for an
additional 40%, and class participation in the form of group work will account for the final
10%.
**Academic Integrity Statement:** Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student [Code of Conduct](#). Section II of the Student Code of Conduct addresses the University’s policy on academic honesty, including but not limited to provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, and misrepresentation/falsification of University records or academic work. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the University Judiciary Program.

**Absence Policy:** There are no excused absences in college. Students are responsible for making up class by conferring with classmates (i.e. getting notes and discussing the main topics of conversation). Students are responsible for all material covered: readings, lectures, and documentary presentations. I will allow make-up exams only if I’m contacted at least two days prior to the exam date.

**Schedule of Readings:**

January 10: Introduction

**Part I. Truth, Science, Reason, and Ideology**

   “Preface” and “First Treatise”

January 17: “First Treatise” continued and selected aphorisms from appendix

   and selections from *The Will to Power*

   “Introduction: The Role of Epistemology in Contemporary History of Science”

   Chapter 1: “What is a Scientific Ideology?”

   “Introduction”, by Michel Foucault
   Chapter 1: “Introduction to the Problem”

   “Philosophy as a Revolutionary Weapon”

   “Nietzsche, Freud, Marx”
Part II. Archaeology and Discourse

"Preface" and Chapter 1: "Las Meninas"

February 14: *The Order of Things* continued

"Introduction" and Chapter 1: "The Unities of Discourse"

February 21: "The Unities of Discourse" continued

Chapter 2: "Discursive Formations"

February 28: "Discursive Formations" continued and,  
Chapter 3: "The Formation of Objects"

Spring Break (no class March 5th and March 7th)

Part III. Genealogy and Power

"Nietzsche, Genealogy, History"  
Mid Term Due

March 14: "Nietzsche, Genealogy, History" continued

"Truth and Juridical Forms"

March 21: No class

March 26: "Truth and Juridical Forms" continued

April 2: "Truth and Juridical Forms" continued

Part II. Chapter 1: "Generalized Punishment"

Part III. Chapter 1: "Docile Bodies"

Part III. Chapter 3: "Panopticism"

April 16: "Panopticism" continued
Part IV. Technologies of the Self

Part One: “We ‘Other Victorians’”

Part Two: “The Repressive Hypothesis”

April 25: “The Repressive Hypothesis” continued

“Technologies of the Self”

May 2: Final Exam Due (by 2:00 at the Department of History and Philosophy office)