Course Description

In his review of *Difference and Repetition* and *The Logic of Sense*, Michel Foucault proclaimed that "perhaps one day this century will be known as Deleuzian." The basis for this claim resides in Deleuze's radical recasting of the notions of "difference" and "repetition," his freeing of them from the traditional doctrines of "representation" and "identity." Our aim will be to see how Deleuze, in collaboration with Félix Guattari, develops this philosophy of difference in a later work, *A Thousand Plateaus*. In particular, we will want to see if, or in what sense, Foucault is right in labeling the 20th century (and presumably the 21st) "Deleuzian." We also will be interested in how *A Thousand Plateaus* offers a form of naturalism that is an alternative to the traditional, mechanistic version of naturalism championed by many Anglo-American philosophers. We will be especially interested in assessing Deleuze's political philosophy. Deleuze's philosophy of art will also be a concern, and we will examine his book on the contemporary British painter, Francis Bacon. We will also investigate feminist responses to Deleuze and Guattari's work as well as the issues of "immanence versus transcendence" and the status of such ideas as "event" and the "virtual."

Requirements

This course is a seminar. In most of the meetings, at least one participant besides the instructor will be responsible for introducing part of the assigned material to the class. Class members will be evaluated on the basis of their presentations, general participation, two short expository papers (2-3 pages), and a 15-18 page paper on some theme related to Deleuze and Guattari's *A Thousand Plateaus* or the Bacon book.

Required Texts


A number of PDF readings will be provided by the instructor and some commentaries will be recommended later.