Course Description and Requirements

In his intellectual career, Foucault passed through a number of stages (existential phenomenological, hermeneutical, archaeological, and genealogical). Each new stage was marked by a reinterpretation of his past work in terms of his latest approach. Foucault's genealogical stage is the most discussed in recent scholarship on his work and preserves important aspects of his preceding "archaeological" period. We will therefore begin with some selections from his archaeological period and then focus on his genealogical works as well as on the ethical, "governmentality," and *parrhesia* ("courageous speech") writings that overlap with them. We will also view Foucault's genealogy and his ethical and political thought in relation to some major authors and themes in contemporary political and ethical philosophy, feminism, and gay, lesbian and "queer theory" thought. The feminist portion of this part of the course will include papers by Judith Butler and other leading U.S. thinkers on gender issues. The requirements for the course will consist of several short papers, a term paper, short presentations on the material, guide-question responses, and sterling attendance.

Required Texts:


Recommended Texts:

