

Syllabus
Department of Philosophy & Religion
Skidmore College

PH 375: Senior Seminar
Reg Lilly

TUTH 9:10-11:00
Spring, 2011

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Senior Seminar is an opportunity for students to bring their acquired philosophical (and not just philosophical!) acumen to bear on a philosophical subject. The present seminar is going to focus on the work of Michel Foucault, a late 20th century French philosopher who had a rather enormous influence within philosophy, and arguably an even greater influence on fields outside of philosophy.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Foucault, *The Order of Things*

Foucault, *Madness and Civilization*

Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*

Foucault, *The History of Sexuality*, vol. 2, *The Use of Pleasure*

Handouts

January

25 Introduction: "What is Enlightenment?" (handout)

27 "The Order of Discourse" (handout)

February

1 *Madness and Civilization*, pp. 1-64

3 *Madness and Civilization*, pp. 65-116

8 *Madness and Civilization*, pp. 159-220

10 *Madness and Civilization*, pp. 220-289

15 Foucault Essays, TBA

17 *The Order of Things*, pp. xv-30

22 *The Order of Things*, pp. 30-76 First paper due

24 *The Order of Things*, pp. 78-124

March

- 1 *The Order of Things*, pp. 125-165
- 3 *The Order of Things*, pp. 166-214
- 8 *The Order of Things*, pp. 217-249
- 10 *The Order of Things*, pp. 250-302
- 15 **Spring Break**
- 17 **Spring Break**
- 22 “What is an Author,” “Nietzsche, Marx, Freud” (Handouts)
- 24 *Discipline and Punish*, pp. 3-57 *Second paper due*
- 29 *Discipline and Punish*, pp. 57-103
- 31 *Discipline and Punish*, pp. 104-156

April

- 5 *Discipline and Punish*, pp. 156-209
- 7 *Discipline and Punish*, pp. 209-256
- 12 “Nietzsche, Genealogy, History” 369-392; “My Body, This Paper, This Fire”
(Handouts)
- 14 *The Use of Pleasure*. pp. 3-52
- 19 *The Use of Pleasure*, pp. 53-98 Third paper due
- 21 *The Use of Pleasure*, pp. 152-203
- 26 *The Use of Pleasure*, pp. 99-151
- 28 *The Use of Pleasure*, pp. 204-254

May

- 3 TBA *Fourth paper due*
- 8 Research Paper Due 4:00pm

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADES

- 1) Four five-page papers, 10% each
- 2) Research paper 40%
- 3) Seminar participation 20%

This is seminar, and the participants in the seminar are expected to drive the discussion through question and debate.

GOALS FOR WRITING IN THE MAJOR

- 1) To write an essay that is clear, well-organized, and driven by a specific thesis relevant to the paper's topic.
- 2) To utilize effectively primary and secondary sources to develop the paper's argument
- 3) To define and properly use technical terms and concepts
- 4) To make distinctions between the presentation of relevant data and/or arguments made by others and the critical analysis of these materials.
- 5) To apply accurately theoretical models and/or disciplinary methods to specialized content.

Research Paper

This paper is an opportunity for students to pursue a topic of interest in relation to Foucault. While the topic of the paper may in which students will become familiar with Foucault's writings on the topic as well the secondary literature, which is copious. A one-page proposal with a working bibliography is due April 21.