



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Fall 2019

FACULTY OF ARTS

Department of Sociology

Department of Sociology Website: <https://soci.ucalgary.ca/>

COURSE TITLE: Topics in Social Theory: Foucault and Sociology			
Course Number	Soci 485 Lec 1		
Pre/Co-Requisites	Soci 333		
Instructor Name	Ariel Ducey	Email	aducey@ucalgary.ca
Instructor Email Policy	I am available during office hours – students can schedule appointments with me at calendly.com/aducey . I am happy to meet with students, but please observe the following norms: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Except for cases in which you have been instructed to email something, contact the instructor by email for administrative purposes only. For instance, you may email to schedule an appointment outside of office hours available on calendly.• Students with substantive questions should come to office hours or schedule an appointment. Students with questions related to grading, readings, or who simply wish to discuss the course in greater depth, should make an appointment.		
Office Location	SS938	Office Hours	Will vary by week, see calendly
Telephone No.	(403) 220-5054		
Class Dates	MWF		
Class Times	11:00 – 11:50 AM		
Class Location	Taylor Institute Studio A		

Course Description

This course is a survey of the work of Michel Foucault (1926-1984), who, when taking his position as Chair at the Collège de France in 1970, gave himself the title “Professor of the History of Systems of Thought.” The course material consists largely of Foucault’s writing, especially his books and lectures,

but we will also consider some commentaries on Foucault and applications of his approach to social issues. Criticisms of his work are given less emphasis in favor of developing a strong foundation in Foucault's texts and ideas, but criticism will be considered in lectures and are welcome products of classroom discussion and labs.

We will consider Foucault's analyses of power; his conception of the relationship between knowledge and power, and the idea of truth regimes; his analyses of biopolitics; the relationship between the typology of power he develops and forms of governmentality and subjectification; his understanding of discourse; his conversation with Marxism and left politics of his period; and his understanding of freedom and how to live better. We will also explore the methodological approaches Foucault described as archaeology, genealogy, and history of the present.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

The objectives of the course are to gain an understanding of the chronological trajectory of Foucault's work, to consider continuities and discontinuities in his concepts and research, to assess with some depth Foucauldian concepts especially pertinent to sociology, and to consider how Foucault's approach is different from other dominant modes of doing and using historical analysis, according to Foucault and others. In addition, students will gain appreciation of key implications of Foucault for sociology and the conduct of sociological research: what his "methods" are, how he positions sociology historically as one of the human sciences; and what kinds of research questions are generated from a Foucauldian perspective.

Through the use of "labs," this course also has several objectives in terms of skills. It is expected that students will develop and enhance their skills with close and critical reading, with several forms of writing, and with understanding and using conceptual/analytical distinctions that are commonplace in social theory.

Required Textbooks, Readings, Materials, Electronic Resources

An essential condition for success in the course is doing all the course readings on time (see list of readings on pg. 8 and course schedule). Readings will average 75 pages a week; less in some weeks, more in others. Carefully examine the course schedule and plan accordingly. Readings must be completed before the class for which they are assigned.

There are three books that students must purchase (see pg. 9). Other course readings will be made available through the course D2L site, in compliance with Fair Dealing Policy for Universities on use of copyrighted materials.

I may add or omit some readings during the semester as needed, or make some adjustments to the order and schedule. Any changes in the course schedule will be announced in class and on D2L. In the event of absence, class members are responsible for finding out about such changes from classmates.

Methods of Assessment and Grading Weights

Exams

There are four exams for this course. All are in-class exams and will include a variety of types of questions, including true or false and short answer questions.

Take-home writing

There are three take-home writing assignments for this course. The first two writing assignments will be shorter assignments, designed to allow you to apply Foucault's ideas. The third writing assignment will be the final exam, and of a more scholarly nature and no more than 1,250 words (6 double-spaced pages).

Labs

"Labs" will be carried out in class. Successful participation in the labs requires you have read the assigned texts for the week. *Always bring the assigned readings to labs.* Labs will provide opportunities to develop critical reading and writing skills and practice interpreting, manipulating, and applying course materials. They will usually involve a component of group work. Examples of labs include: exercises that require close reading or interpretation of the assigned text; connection of audiovisual materials to the assigned reading; application of Foucault's concepts or methods to current events and artifacts; and brief presentations. *The labs will sometimes require preparation before class and perhaps submission of work the night before* (instructions will be given in class and posted on D2L, the class before the lab). Lab work will be evaluated on a pass/fail basis, though a "high pass" category will also be used when the nature of the lab permits.

Grading

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

Exams (4):	12% each
Take-home writing 1 & 2:	10% each
Take-home writing 3 (final exam):	20%
Labs:	12%

Final Exam Information

The final exam for this course will be a take-home writing assignment, due during final exam week: **Friday, December 14th**. The exam will be set-up for electronic submission (through D2L). The exam will be cumulative, covering all work during the course term.

Grading Scale

Letter grades will be assigned and submitted to the registrar based on the following scale:

Grade	Percent range	Grade Point Value	Description
A+	96 – 100%	4.0	Outstanding performance
A	90 – 95.99%	4.0	Excellent performance
A-	85 – 89.99%	3.7	Approaching excellent performance
B+	80 – 84.99%	3.3	Exceeding good performance
B	75 – 79.99%	3.0	Good performance
B-	70 – 74.99%	2.7	Approaching good performance
C+	67 – 69.99%	2.3	Exceeding satisfactory performance
C	63 – 66.99%	2.0	Satisfactory performance
C-	59 – 62.99%	1.7	Approaching satisfactory performance
D+	55 – 58.99%	1.3	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject
D	50 – 54.99%	1.0	Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
F	<50%	0	Failure. Did not meet course requirements.

Grade Reappraisal

Within two weeks of the date the exam/assignment is returned, students seeking reappraisal of examinations or assignments must submit a written response to the instructor explaining the basis for reconsideration of one's mark. The instructor will reconsider the grade assigned and will then book a time with the student to discuss his or her work and rationale. It should be noted that a re-assessed grade may be raised, lowered, or remain the same.

Technology Use

Students are permitted to use laptops or tablets for purposes of taking notes. Smaller devices must be turned to silent and stowed out of sight. Functions for calls and messaging must be turned off on devices being used to take notes for the duration of each class. Students observed to be using

devices for purposes other than those related to class will be required to leave. Please note that such use is in all likelihood distracting to those seated nearby.

Handing in Papers, Assignments

1. The main Sociology Department office does not deal with any course-related matters. Please speak directly to your instructor.
2. **Protection of Privacy:** The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPP) legislation does not allow students to retrieve any course material from public places. Anything that requires handing back will be returned directly during class or office hours. If students are unable to pick up their assignments from the instructor, they can provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are only available online.

Research Ethics

Students are advised that any research with human subjects – including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation – must have the approval of the Faculty Ethics Committee. In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subjects research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

Copyright Legislation

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf>) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

Instructor Intellectual Property

Course materials created by professor(s) (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the professor(s). These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

Academic Misconduct

Please refer to the website listed below for information on University of Calgary policies on Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct:
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Absences and Deferrals

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructors as soon as possible. Instructors may request that evidence in the form of documentation be provided. If the reason provided for the absence is

acceptable, instructors may decide that any arrangements made can take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test. For information on possible forms of documentation, including statutory declarations, please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html>

Deferred Final Exam Form: Please note that requests to defer a Registrar scheduled final exam are dealt with through the Registrar's Office. Further information can be found at:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>

Deferred Term Work Form: Deferral of term work past the end of a term also requires a form to be filled out. It's available at:

https://live-ucalgary.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/1/deferred_termwork15_0.pdf

Once an extension date has been agreed between instructor and student, the form should be taken to the Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (SS 110) for approval by an Associate Dean (Students).

Academic Accommodation

The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

Wellness and Mental Health Resources

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive support when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through Student Wellness Services (Room 370 MacEwan Student Centre, <https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellness-services/services/mental-health-services>) and the Campus Mental Health Strategy (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>).

Student Success

The Student Success Centre provides services and programs to ensure students can make the most of their time at the University of Calgary. Our advisors, learning support staff, and writing support staff assist students in enhancing their skills and achieving their academic goals. They provide tailored learning support and advising programs, as well as one-on-one services, free of charge to all undergraduate and graduate students. For more information visit:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success>

Student Ombuds Office

The Student Ombuds Office supports and provides a safe, neutral space for students. For more information, please visit www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/ or email ombuds@ucalgary.ca.

Student Union (SU) Information

The SU Vice-President Academic can be reached at (403) 220-3911 or suvpaca@ucalgary.ca; Information about the SU, including elected Faculty Representatives, can be found here: <https://www.su.ucalgary.ca>.

Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points

Assembly points for emergencies have been identified across campus. Assembly points are designed to establish a location for information updates from the emergency responders to the evacuees; from the evacuated population to the emergency responders. For more information, see the University of Calgary's Emergency Management website:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

Safewalk

Campus security will escort individuals, day or night, anywhere on campus (including McMahon Stadium, Health Sciences Centre, Student Family Housing, the Alberta Children's Hospital and the University LRT station). Call 403-220-5333 or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths. Please ensure your personal safety by taking advantage of this service.

Course Schedule

<u>Week of Sept 9</u> [Friday, Sept 6: Intro to course] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Discipline & Punish</i>, Part I, Ch. 1: "The Body of the Condemned" 	M: Lecture
	W: Lecture
	F: Lab
<u>Week of Sept 16</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Discipline & Punish</i>, Part III: "Discipline" ("Docile Bodies," "The Means of Correct Training," "Panopticism") 	M: Lecture
	W: Lab
	F: Lecture
<u>Week of Sept 23</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sandra Bartky. 1997. "Foucault, Feminism and the Modernization of Patriarchal Power" 	M: Lab
	W: Lecture
	F: In-class exam #1
<u>Week of Sept 30</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foucault, Michel. "The Order of Discourse" [Lecture 2 December 1970] (for Monday) Scheurich & McKenzie. 2005. "Foucault's Methodologies: Archeology and Genealogy" (for Friday) 	M: Lecture
	W: Lab
	F: Lecture
<u>Week of Oct 7</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selections from <i>The Birth of the Clinic</i> [TBD] 	M: Lecture
	W: Lecture
	F: Lab
<u>Week of Oct 14</u> No class Oct 14 - Thanksgiving <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selections from <i>The Birth of the Clinic</i> [TBD] 	M: NO CLASS
	W: Lecture
	F: Catch-up, lecture Writing assignment #1 due
<u>Week of Oct 21</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>History of Sexuality</i> Parts I, II, & III 	M: In-class exam #2
	W: Lecture
	F: Lab
<u>Week of Oct 28</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>History of Sexuality</i> Part IV 	M: Lecture
	W: Lab
	F: Lecture
<u>Week of Nov 4</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>History of Sexuality</i>, Part V Foucault, Michel. "17 March 1976" Lecture 	M: Lecture
	W: Lab
	F: Lecture, catch-up
<u>Week of Nov 18</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foucault, Michel. "1 February 1978" [Lecture] (read for Wednesday) Foucault, Michel. "The Birth of Biopolitics" [Course Summary 1978-9] (read for Wednesday) 	M: In-class exam #3
	W: Lecture
	F: Lab
<u>Week of Nov 25</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional lecture on governmentality [TBD] (Monday) Foucault, Michel. 1997. "Technologies of the Self" [from seminar at University of Vermont, 1982] (Wednesday) 	M: Lecture
	W: Lecture Writing assignment #2 due
	F: Lab
<u>Week of Dec 2</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foucault, Michel. 1997. "The Ethics of the Concern for Self as a Practice of Freedom" [Interview, 1984] Pitts-Taylor, Victoria. 2009. "Becoming/Being a Cosmetic Surgery Patient: Semantic Instability and the Intersubjective Self" 	M: Lecture
	W: In-class exam #4
	F: Lab, catch-up
December 14th: Writing assignment #3 due	

Course Readings

Required course books (available at UofC bookstore)

- Foucault, Michel. *Discipline & Punish*. NY: Random House, 1995. [Orig. published in English 1977, French 1975]
- Foucault, Michel. *The History of Sexuality: An Introduction*. Vintage Books, 1990 [Orig. published in English 1977, French 1976]
- Foucault, Michel. *The Birth of the Clinic: An Archaeology of Medical Perception*. Vintage Books, 1994. [Orig. published in English 1973, French 1963]

Required articles and shorter Foucault pieces (will be made available through D2L)

- Bartky, S. L. 1997. "Foucault, Feminism and the Modernization of Patriarchal Power" in K. Conboy, N. Medina and S. Stanbury, eds., *Writing on the Body: Female Embodiment and Feminist Theory*. New York: Columbia University Press.
- Gordon, Colin. "Governmental Rationality: An Introduction," pp. 1-53 in *The Foucault Effect: Studies in Governmentality*. Graham Burchell, Colin Gordon, and Peter Miller, eds. University of Chicago Press, 1991.
- Foucault, Michel. "The Birth of Biopolitics," pp. 73-79 in *Michel Foucault: Ethics, Subjectivity and Truth*. Paul Rabinow, ed. (Trans. Robert Hurley). New Press, 1994. [Also published as "Course Summary," pp. 317-325 in *The Birth of Biopolitics, Lectures at the Collège de France 1978-1979*. Michel Senellart, ed. (Trans. Graham Burchell) Palgrave MacMillan, 2008.]
- Foucault, Michel. "1 February 1978" pp. 87-114 in *Security, territory, population: Lectures at the Collège de France, 1977-78*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007. Translated by Graham Burchell.
- Foucault, Michel. "17 March 1976" ch. 11 in *"Society Must be Defended": Lectures at the Collège de France, 1975-76*, ed. Mauro Bertani and Alessandro Fontana, NY: Picador: 2003
- Foucault, Michel. "The Order of Discourse," pp. 48-78 in *Untying the Text: A Post-Structuralist Reader*, Robert Young, ed. Routledge, 1981.
- Foucault, Michel. 1997. "Technologies of the Self," pp.223-251 in *Ethics, Subjectivity, Truth*, Paul Rabinow, ed. The New Press.
- Foucault, Michel. 1997. "The Ethics of the Concern for Self as a Practice of Freedom," pp. 281-301 in *Ethics, Subjectivity, Truth*, Paul Rabinow, ed. The New Press.
- Pitts-Taylor, Victoria. 2009. "Becoming/Being a Cosmetic Surgery Patient: Semantic Instability and the Intersubjective Self," *Studies in Gender and Sexuality* 10(3): 119-128.
- Scheurich, James Joseph and Kathryn Bell McKenzie. 2005. "Foucault's Methodologies: Archeology and Genealogy," Ch. 33 (pp. 841-868) in *The Sage Handbook of Qualitative Research*, 3rd ed., Norman Denzin & Yvonna Lincoln, eds. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.