I have always been interested in the problem of the relationship between subject and truth. I mean, how does the subject fit into a certain game of truth?

That is what led me to pose the problem of knowledge and power...
Ferdinand de Saussure  Course on General Linguistics  
Michel Foucault  Discipline and Punishment  
Michel Foucault  History of Sexuality  
Paul Rabinow and Nikolas Rose  The Essential Foucault  
Todd May  The Philosophy of Foucault  
Samuel Beckett  Waiting for Godot  
John Caputo  Philosophy and Theology  
David Halperin  Saint Foucault  
Pierre Hadott  Philosophy as a Way of Life: Spiritual Exercises from Socrates to Foucault  
William Johnston (ed)  Cloud of Unknowing  
Thich Nhat Hahn  Essential Writings  

**S P R I N G  2 0 1 2  C A L E N D A R**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date/Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring classes begin</td>
<td>Monday, January 23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holiday: Presidents’ Day</td>
<td>Monday, February 20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm grades due</td>
<td>Friday, March 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring recess (university offices remain open)</td>
<td>Monday, March 12 - Saturday, March 17</td>
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<td>Spring classes end</td>
<td>Monday, May 7</td>
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<td>Reading day</td>
<td>Tuesday, May 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam week</td>
<td>Wednesday, May 9 - Tuesday, May 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final grades due</td>
<td>Wednesday, May 16</td>
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<td>NYU Commencement</td>
<td>Wednesday, May 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gallatin Graduation</td>
<td>Thursday, May 17</td>
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**Class Schedule**

1.) Jan 26: Introduction

   Video: Noam Chomsky and Michel Foucault: Human Nature: Justice versus Power

2.) Feb 2: Structural Linguistics

   Sturrock: *Structuralism and Since* (excerpts)  
   Saussure: *Course in General Linguistics*  
   Introduction—particularly chapter III  
   Part One—particularly chapter I  
   Part Two—particularly chapter IV  
   Lewis: Dodging the Science Wars

3.) Feb 9: Madness and Medicine
May: Chapter 1 and 2 (to page 36)
Andreason: History of Psychiatry
Foucault: The Historical Constitution of Mental Illness

In Class:
Video: Andreason
Foucault: *Birth of the Clinic*: Preface (selection)
Order of Things: Chinese Encyclopedia

4.) Feb 16: Discourse

May: 36-44
Foucault: The Discourse on Language
Lewis: The New Psychiatry as a Discursive Practice

Video: Waiting for Godot in Class (pt 1)

5.) Feb 16: Philosophy and Theology (share class with Postmodern Religious Thought)

Caputo: Philosophy and Theology
Caputo: On Not Knowing Who We Are: Madness, Hermeneutics and the Night of Truth in Foucault

6.) Feb 23: Waiting for Godot

Beckett: Waiting for Godot

Video: Waiting for Godot in Class (pt 2)

**First Paper Due **

**Topic: Using the readings thus far, please draw out similarities and differences between Foucault and Beckett.**

7.) Mar 8: Disciplinary Society

May: 61-85
Foucault: Truth and Power
Foucault: *Discipline and Punishment*
Part I: Torture
Chapter 1: Body of the condemned
Part III: Discipline
Chapter 1: Docile bodies
Chapter 2: The means of correct training

Mar 13 (*SPRING BREAK* Monday, March 12 - Saturday, March 19)
8.) Mar 22: Discipline, Sexuality and Biopower

Foucault: *Discipline and Punishment*
Chapter 3: Panopticism
Part IV: *Prison*
Chapter 3: The Carceral
May: 85-95
Foucault: *History of Sexuality* (p. 1-51) (p. 92-115 and 133-159)

Video: Act Up (end of class)

9.) Mar 29: ACT-UP and Queer Politics

Halperin: Saint Foucault: Queer Politics of Michel Foucault

Video: Act Up (middle of class)

10.) April 5: Power, Subjectivity, and Ethics

Foucault: Technologies of the Self
Foucault: Subject and Power
Foucault: Genealogy of Ethics
May: 96-126 (skim some of this)

Video: Foucault’s lecture
Video: Thich Nhat Hahn (introduce “spiritual practice”)

11.) Apr 12: Philosophy as a Way of Life

Foucault: Hermeneutics of the Subject (lecture 1 and course sum p. 498-505)
Foucault: Ethics of Concern as Practice of Freedom
Haddot: Forms of Life and Forms of Discourse in Ancient Philosophy
Haddot: Reflections on Cultivation of the Self

Video: Foucault’s lecture continued

Suggested: Haddot: Marcus Aurelius

12.) Apr 19: Spiritual Exercises, Ancient Philosophy, and Christian Mysticism

Haddot: Spiritual Exercises
Haddot: Ancient Spiritual Exercises and “Christian Philosophy”
Haddot: Philosophy as a Way of Life
Haddot: Postscript: An Interview
King: Mysticism and Spirituality
Johnston (ed): *Cloud of Unknowing*

Video: Merton

13.) April 26: Zen Buddhism (with Joe)

Foucault on Zen
Thich Nhat Hanh: *Happiness: Essential Mindfulness Practices*
Thich Nhat Hahn: *Essential Writings*
   Particularly: Touching the Ultimate Dimension (42-43) Interpenetration (67-70), Realizing the Ultimate Reality (88-82), Living Buddha, Living Christ (138-142)
Kripal: Esalen and the Religion of no Religion

Video: Thich Nhat Hanh

15.) May 3: Foucault and Post-Anarchism (LAST CLASS)

Hall: Circuit of Culture and Representation
May: Is Post-structuralist Political Theory Anarchist?
Shepard: Introductory Notes on the Trail from ACT-UP to the WTO
Graeber and Grubacic: Anarchism or the Revolutionary Movement of the 21st Century
Day: From Hegemony to Affinity: The Political Logic of the Newest Social Movements

Video: Graeber

Suggested: [Rousselle](#) and [Evren](#): Post-Anarchism: A Reader

***Final Paper Due on Thursday May 7th, 5 PM (my office box)***

**Topic:** Mahatma Ghandi has famously said: “Be the change you wish to see in the world.” Independent of Ghandi’s own philosophy, please use the readings from the second half of class to think through some of the philosophic possibilities of this statement.

**Course Requirements**

Grades are based on three parts: attendance/participation (20%) and 2 papers (40% each). Late papers are graded down. There will be an opportunity to rewrite the first paper if you desire. The attendance/participation grade is composed of weekly class attendance and participation.

On the days we do not have a film or guest lecturer, class will begin with a short lecture on the material for that week. We then move to round robin class discussion.
initiated by your selections from the material. To prepare for this part of the class please type a quote which you have comments or questions from each week’s readings (include page numbers so we can find your quotes). We will then go around the class reading and discussing the quotes selected. Your quotes for each half of the class are turned in with your papers.

The papers are 7 pages typed, double spaced. Please use the material from the class to develop the topic question I hand out. Back up your thesis with arguments and examples from the class readings (include internal citations with page numbers and a reference list at the end). A good paper demonstrates that you have integrated the material from the class discussions and readings and can use it to analyze your topic. Use the bulk of your energy reading closely and thinking seriously about the materials you have (rather than doing outside research). Also, be sure and give your paper a title.

The grading scale for the class will be as follows: 93-100% (A) 90-92 (A-), 87-89 (B+), 83-86 (B), 80-82 (B-), 77-79 (C+), 70-76 (C), 63-69 (D), and below (F).