

**Sociology 230.01
Foucault
Course Syllabus**

**Fall 2023
MWF 12:30-1:20
Denny 304**

Instructor: Dan Schubert
Office: Denny 314 (x1227)
Office hours: Thursdays 10:30-11:30 and 1:30-2:30, and by appointment
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Overview:

Michel Foucault was perhaps the most influential social thinker of the late 20th century. His arguments about the panopticon, historical epistemes, the medical gaze, governmentality, sexuality, and power now permeate the social sciences and humanities. He once wrote, "Do not ask me who I am and do not ask me to remain the same: leave it to our bureaucrats and our police to see that our papers are in order." These words will inform our semester of reading and discussing a variety of his primary works, including *Madness and Civilization*, *Discipline and Punish*, and *The History of Sexuality*, v.1, as well as some of his lectures and interviews. While our primary focus in this WID course will be Foucault's work itself, we will read a small selection of secondary literature that explicates and critiques some of his arguments.

Learning Goals:

1. Understand the ways in which Foucault accounts for language and power
2. Understand the shift in social scientific focus from things to words (discourses) about things
3. Use Foucault as a lens through which to analyze and understand contemporary reality
4. Discuss, debate, and defend ideas, including one's own views, with clarity and reason
5. Create clear academic writing
6. What are your own learning goals?

Required Texts:

Foucault, Michel. 1988/1965. Madness and Civilization: A History of Insanity in an Age of Reason. New York: Vintage Books.

Foucault, Michel. 1995/1975. Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison. New York: Vintage Books.

Foucault, Michel. 1980/1978. The History of Sexuality, v.1: An Introduction.

Supplemental Texts:

A number of supplemental texts will be available on the class Moodle page.

Course Requirements and Grading:

There will be two examinations given in this class, each worth 25% of your grade. The final will be given at 2:00 on Tuesday, December 12th, the time period assigned by the college, and it will be of a comprehensive nature. Each exam will consist of essay questions. You will write three papers, each about six pages in length. Each will go through a drafting process.

The remaining 5% of your grade will be based on the quality of class notes that a pair of students will post to our moodle page each week for each week of the semester. These pairs will be announced during the first week of classes. Notes must be posted by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday after the week in which the notes were taken.

GRADING DISTRIBUTION	
EXAM 1	25%
FINAL EXAM	25%
PAPER1	10%
PAPER 2: field trip analysis	10%
PAPER 3	15%
Weekly Class Notes	5%
Class Participation	10%
	100%

Attendance:

Attendance is very important in this class, but college is not high school. Except for the first few weeks, I will not call roll. However, students are encouraged to attend as many classes as possible because 10% of your grade is based on class participation. In addition, it is possible that we will have a number of guest speakers and/or films during the semester. While these lectures/films may be arranged without notice, topics covered will be fair game for examinations.

Accommodating Students with Disabilities:

Dickinson values diverse types of learners and is committed to ensuring that each student is afforded equitable access to participate in all learning experiences. If you have (or think you may have) a learning difference or a disability – including a mental health, medical, or physical impairment – that would hinder your access to learning or demonstrating knowledge in this class, please contact Access and Disability Services (ADS). They will confidentially explain the accommodation request process and the type of documentation that Dean and Executive Director Marni Jones will need to determine your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. To learn more about available supports, go to www.dickinson.edu/ADS, email access@dickinson.edu, call (717) 245-1734, or go to the ADS office in Room 005 of Old West, Lower Level (aka "the OWLL").

If you've already been granted accommodations at Dickinson, please follow the guidance at www.dickinson.edu/AccessPlan for disclosing the accommodations for which you are eligible and scheduling a meeting with me as soon as possible so that we can discuss your accommodations and finalize your Access Plan. If you will be using any test-taking accommodations in this class, be sure to enter all test dates into your Access Plan in advance of our meeting. ADS will be happy to provide any assistance you may need.

Physical Access to Class and Office:

This class and my office are both located on the third floor of Denny Hall, which has an elevator, located in the middle of each floor. If you require the use of an elevator to access the third floor, please let me know. If there is ever a malfunction with the elevator, please notify me by email, and I will consult with ADS to identify our options for that day. If you do not need to use the elevator, I ask that you please use the stairs so that the elevator is available for those who do need it.

Cell Phones, Laptops, and Other Devices:

- This class may be recorded for accommodation purposes. If it is, those recordings will be used for class purposes **only**. It is a violation of Pennsylvania law to use them for any other reason or to record others without their consent. I will report it if I discover that recording has been done without permission.

Allowing your cell phone to ring during class is rude. Don't do it. Three points will be deducted from your next exam the first time this happens. Five points will be deducted the second time. Reading or sending text messages is also impolite. The same system of point deduction will apply if you read or write text messages while in class. Basically, don't use your phone unless instructed to do so. Our classroom has a clock. There is no need to check your phone to find out the time. Keep your phone in your pocket or in your backpack at all times unless otherwise instructed. Please turn off your watches prior to class.

Laptops and other electronic devices are not to be used during class without permission of the instructor. I find them distracting and I have been asked by students in other classes to ban them for the same reason. Open laptops in a classroom serve to block sight lines, distract attention, and discourage conversation. What's more, recent research has found that the use of laptops in class does not enhance learning and may in fact do the opposite. The more class discussion we have in this course, the better it will be.

NOTE: You will be allowed to use these devices **ONLY** when we are discussing moodle readings.

Cheating:

Don't cheat. Academic honesty is expected from all students. Cheating is defined as submitting work for evaluation that is not your own, i.e., copying from another student's work, or from crib sheets, or from any other source of information. Plagiarism is cheating. According to Webster's Dictionary, plagiarism means to steal or pass off work as one's own, or to use another's work without crediting the source; to commit **literary theft**. Every effort will be made to punish cheaters.

Foucault Course and Reading Schedule

Week of:

Topic/Assignments:

- 8/28 M: Introduction to the course and to course members
W: Hutton (M)
F: Foucault: Preface to *The Order of Things* (M)
- 9/4 M: Foucault: *Las Meninas* (M)
W: Foucault: *History of Systems of Thought* (M)
F: MADNESS, *Preface, Introduction*, and thru the first full sentence on p.21
- 9/11 M: MADNESS, thru p.64
W: MADNESS, thru p.84
F: MADNESS, thru p.117
- 9/18 M: MADNESS, p.159-199
W: MADNESS, thru p.221
F: MADNESS, thru p.240
- 9/25 M: MADNESS, thru p.278
W: MADNESS, rest of book
F: Foucault, *Birth of the Clinic* (M)
- 10/2 M: Guest Speaker: Professor Elizabeth Lee (readings t.b.a.)
W: EXAM 1
Th: Clarke Forum event at 7:00 in ATS: *A Conversation on Corrections in Ink*
F: DISCIPLINE, thru p.31
- 10/9 M: DISCIPLINE, thru p. 72
W: DISCIPLINE, thru p. 103
F: DISCIPLINE, thru p. 135
- 10/16 M: **FALL PAUSE**
W: DISCIPLINE, P.195-230
Th: 7:00 p.m.: Joint session with Professor Heard's Law and Policy class in Denny 317; READ *Prison Tourism* (M)
F: DISCIPLINE, P.136-169

10/23 M: 8:00 a.m.: FIELD TRIP TO EASTERN STATE PENITENTIARY;
DISCIPLINE, p. 170-194
W: DISCIPLINE, p.231-256
F: DISCIPLINE, p.257-292

10/30 M: DISCIPLINE, rest of book
W:
F:

11/6 M:
W:
F:

11/13 M:
T: Clarke Forum event at 7:00 in ATS: *Savage States: Settler Governance
in an Age of Sorrow*
W:
F:

11/20 M:
W: THANKSGIVING BREAK
F: THANKSGIVING BREAK

11/27 M:
W:
F:

12/4 M:
W:
F:

12/12 **FINAL EXAM AT 2:00**