



GNDR_ST 490/COMP_LIT 481/PHIL 415 • Penny Deutscher

Biopolitics after Foucault

This interdisciplinary course integrates readings from contemporary French philosophy and from critical race, gender and sexuality studies. Focusing on the field of biopolitical theory (and its complement, “thanatopolitics”), and the political management of life and death in both domains, it engages the legacy and ongoing influence of Michel Foucault. One section of the course is devoted to a group of lecture series offered by Foucault at the College de France, allowing students to augment their knowledge of core texts such as *Discipline and Punish* and *History of Sexuality*, with a study of some of the following: *Psychiatric Power*, *Society Must Be Defended*, and *Security, Territory, Population*. The second section of the course considers the role of Foucauldian biopolitics within a number of debates from contemporary gender, queer and race studies. Topics will be selected from: politics of utopianism, futurism, the anti-social thesis, critique of reproductive futurism, necropolitics and afro-pessimism, cruel optimism, social ontology and precarious life, debility, biopolitics and the management of language, and the politics of plural temporalities.

TBA • Wednesday 6:30-9:30pm

