



Gender Studies 490-26 • Jacqueline Stevens

Politics after Biopolitics: Foucault & His Critics

This course will analyze concepts that are in the orbit of biopolitics broadly conceived -- that is, conflicts over how to reproduce, maintain, or destroy a particular body politic -- in order to engage with theories of "biopolitics" and "biopower." The objective is to understand the uses and disadvantages of Michel Foucault's critiques of discourses of sovereignty for analyzing current political conflicts situated in practices of the nation, race, class, and the family, as well as the subject positions associated with these, e.g., citizens, immigrants, Whites, Asians, rich, poor, the 1%, dependents, women, men, LGBT, queer, and many more. The course will attend to the intellectual and political history informing Foucault's critiques of, and elaborations on, the discourse of sovereignty, including legal discourses. During class meetings we will discuss Foucault's historical periodizations of changing discourses of power/knowledge relations associated with biopolitics and evaluate the metanarrative that informs his heuristics.

Th 9:30am-12:20pm • Parkes Hall 224

