

INTRO TO FOUCAULT: POWER, SEX, AND KNOWLEDGE

GNDR_ST 352 & PHIL 315
& COMP_LIT 383

WINTER
2023



The course offers a foundational competency in the main concepts and texts of Michel Foucault, the most broadly influential late-twentieth-century French philosopher. We will foreground the aspects of Foucault's approach that have most impacted inquiry and critique in the arts, humanities, and social sciences. We will give special attention to the fields of gender and sexuality studies, and Black studies as contexts of uptake, criticism, and revision of Foucauldian concepts. Thematically, the course will focus on Foucault's writings on sexuality, madness, health, prisons, delinquency, families, power, biopolitics, surveillance, selfhood and individuality, knowledge, and truth. Conceptually, we'll debate and apply core Foucauldian concepts such as:

archaeology and genealogy; discipline and biopower, the productivity and plurality of power; normalization and its dependence on "abnormality;" the conditions under which freedom is also a form of "subjection"; the carceral society, the possibilities of social resistance and transformation; the historical a priori; and epistemic rupture. We'll critically assess the contribution of Foucault's major works (focusing on *History of Madness*, *Discipline and Punish*, and *History of Sexuality*). The course is reading intensive.

Penny Deutscher

TTh 6:30-7:50pm

TBD