

## Advanced Sociological Theory

Sociology and Anthropology 850

Section: D100

Term: 1998 Fall

Instructor: DR. DANY LACOMBE

### Discussion Topics:

Michel Foucault's work has enormously influenced the way contemporary scholars and graduate students in the social sciences and the humanities approach the study of social institutions, individuals and texts. While his work has been dismissed as not really sociology by sociologists, not proper history by historians, not (although not anti) feminist by feminists, not radical by many marxists, post-modern, post-structuralist or relativist (read real bad) by foundationalists -- and the list goes on--Michel Foucault has opened up the path for interdisciplinary studies. In this course, I would like to focus on the significance of Foucault's work for interdisciplinary studies, in general, and for doing research in particular.

As most students will have to write a thesis at some point in their graduate career, I want this "theory" course to provide you with some analytical skills and tools to construct your own object of study. To this effect, we will read Michel Foucault's seminal work on the prison and sexuality, as well as essays and interviews where he discusses his approach to doing research (genealogy). We will endeavor to understand how institutions and identities which we take for granted, in fact, have been produced through a matrix of power relations. From practices that normalize and discipline to strategies that minimize risks, a variety of populations (the fit, the unfit, the sick, the deviant, dangerous youth, women, sexual offenders, and those at risk of becoming alcoholics, dangerous, serial killers, or at risk of getting cancer, heart attacks, etc.) are identified and regulated--they are made-up so to speak. It is this process of "making-up" people that we will investigate through Foucault's work and those of scholars who have pursued his insights further.

During the first 9 weeks of the course, we will do a close reading of Foucault's texts and those of his critics. During the last 4 weeks of the course, we will examine interdisciplinary work influenced by, but not limited to, Foucault's approach. I will provide a list of texts, but students are welcome to make suggestions.

Grading: Seminar presentations (2): 20%

1 during weeks 2 to 9

1 during weeks 10 to 13

Seminar participation: 20%

6 reports on readings (@5 to 6 pages each): 60%

### Required Texts:

Foucault, M. Discipline and Punish: the Birth of the Modern Prison. Vintage Books, 1977 and 1995

Foucault, M. History of Sexuality: An Introduction. Vintage Books, 1978 and 1990

Other reading materials required for the course will be on r

### Recommended Texts:

**Advanced Sociological Theory**

Materials/Supplies:

Prerequisite/Corequisite:

Notes:

This outline is derived from a course outline repository database that was maintained by SFU Student Services and the University's IT Services Department. The database was retired in 2014 and the data migrated to SFU Archives in 2015.