Foucault and Genealogy: PHIL 556 (Spring 2014)
Instructor: Professor Fred Evans

Course Description and Requirements

In his intellectual career, Foucault passed through a number of stages (existential phenomenological, hermeneutical, archaeological, and genealogical). Each new stage was marked by a reinterpretation of his past work in terms of his latest approach. Foucault's genealogical stage is the most discussed in recent scholarship on his work and preserves important aspects of his preceding "archaeological" period. We will therefore begin with some selections from his archaeological period and then focus on his genealogical works as well as on the ethical, "governmentality," and Parrhesia writings that overlap with them. We will also view Foucault's genealogy and his ethical and political thought in relation to some major authors and themes in contemporary political and ethical philosophy, feminism, and gay and lesbian thought. As a possible option for those who are interested, I will meet for a few after-class sessions to discuss Gilles Deleuze's book on Foucault. The requirements for the course will consist of several short papers, a term paper, short presentations on the material, and sterling attendance.

Required Texts:


Various PDFed articles from Michel Foucault, *The Essential Works of Michel Foucault, 1954-1984*, Vols. I, II, and III, ed. Paul Rabinow (New York, NY: The New Press), and from other sources: **These will be provided by the instructor.**


Recommended Texts:


