Course: PHIL 556.01/456W (2)
Date: Fall 2021, Wednesday, 12:00-2:40PM
Instructor: Fred Evans, Professor Emeritus
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Course Description and Requirements

In his intellectual career, Foucault passed through a number of stages (Marxist, existential phenomenological, hermeneutical, archaeological, genealogical, and ethical). Each new stage was marked by a reinterpretation of his past work in terms of his latest approach. Foucault's genealogical and ethical stages are the most discussed in recent scholarship on his work and preserve 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 (courageous speech and hearing) writings that overlap with the latter. 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, lesbian and "queer theory." The feminist portion of this part of the course may include papers by Judith Butler and other leading U.S. thinkers on gender issues. An optional "reading group," not part of the course grade, on Gilles Deleuze's Foucault is possible, depending on interest and the instructor's time constraints. The requirements for the course will consist of one or more short papers, a term paper, brief presentations on the material, and sterling attendance. This course counts for the contemporary philosophy requirement.

Required Texts: besides those listed below, others will likely be added later, required and/or recommended:


This course meets the requirement for Contemporary.