

Inf2303 Winter 2016
Culture, Technology, and Foucault
Dr. Jeremy Packer
Thursday 1-4, Bissel 312

Course Objectives

This course will provide an introduction to Foucault's work and look specifically to how it has been productively used to analyze the overlapping realms of technology and culture. Foucault's turn toward a theoretical vocabulary that pinpointed technology as a central conceptual tool for rethinking power, governance, knowledge, and subjectivity will be given special attention. Further, culture, in particular as it has been treated by Foucauldian scholars in governmentality studies, plays a critical role in modern forms of governance and political struggle. It is only in the past few years that scholars have explicitly begun to truly take into account the importance of technology in Foucault's thought and, more importantly, the meaningful insights his work can bring to our understanding of contemporary techno-culture.

More generally, the work of Michel Foucault continues to have a more profound effect upon the humanities and social sciences in English speaking countries than that of any other intellectual figure to emerge in the second half of the twentieth century or the early years of the twenty-first. Foucault has been the most cited figure in the Arts and Humanities and Social Sciences Citation Index every year since 1985, the year following his death.

See further:

<http://current.ischool.utoronto.ca/studies/learning-outcomes;>

MMSSt: http://current.ischool.utoronto.ca/system/files/user/108/mmst_vision_-_rev._march_7_2014_0.pdf;

Doctoral: http://current.ischool.utoronto.ca/system/files/user/108/final-phd_program_goals_april17_2014_1.pdf)

Expectations and Learning Outcomes

Students have five obligations in this course.

1. Being in each and every class having read all the assigned readings.
2. Engaging in thoughtful and productive dialogue during class.
3. Leading class discussion once during the semester.
4. Develop an original research project on the topic of Foucault and "technology", carry out primary and secondary research, write an academic essay of 15-25 pages.
5. Presenting this research to class.

Grades

Participation and discussion leader	20%
Research Presentation	20%

Final Essay and Presentation 60%

See further:

<http://current.ischool.utoronto.ca/grade-interpretation>

<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/grading.pdf>

Key Texts—all by Michel Foucault unless noted otherwise:

Birth of the Clinic

Discipline and Punish

History of Sexuality Vol 1.

Order of Things

Secondary Texts:

Security, Territory, Population

The Essential Foucault

The Use of Pleasure: History of Sexuality Vol II

Friedrich Kittler, *Gramophone, Film, Typewriter*

Daston and Galison, *Objectivity*

Schedule:

Week 1 Introduction to course

January 12

Packer, Jeremy. (2013). "The Conditions of Media's Possibility: Foucault and Media History." In J. Nerone, ed. *Media History and the Foundations of Media Studies*. Blackwell, New York. (88-121)

Week 2 Technologies of Knowing and Epistemology Part 1

January 19

Foucault, *Birth of the Clinic*

Week 3 Technologies of Knowing and Epistemology Part 2

January 26

Foucault, *The Order of Things*.

Week 4 Technologies of Power: Discipline

February 2

Foucault, *Discipline & Punish* (1975/1991)

Foucault, "Alternatives to the Prison: Dissemination or Decline of Social Control?" *Theory, Culture & Society* November 2009 26: 12-24

**Week 5 Technologies of Power: Repressive Hypothesis and Productive Power
February 9**

Foucault, *History of Sexuality Vol 1: An Introduction*

Foucault, *Abnormal*, Lecture 2

Andrejevich, Mark, "The Work of Being Watched."

**Week 6 Governmentality and cultural technologies I
February 16**

Foucault, *Security, Territory, Population*—Lectures 4,5,and 9.

Dean, Mitchell, (1996) "Putting the Technological into Government." *History of the Human Sciences*, Vol 9, no. 3. 47-68.

Behrent, "Foucault and Technology" (2013, *History and Technology*, Vol 29 no1)

Packer and Reeves, "Police Media." (2013) *CCCS*

**Week 7 Governmentality and cultural technologies II
March 2**

Bennett, Tony, "Cultural Studies: The Foucault Effect" (*Culture—A Reformer's Science*, 1998)

Ouellette, Laurie and James Hay, "Introduction" to *Better Living Through Reality TV*, Blackwell, 2008

Deleuze, G. (1990/1995a). Control and becoming & Postscript on control societies, In *Negotiations* (M. Joughin, Trans., pp. 169-176). Columbia University Press.

Bratich, Jack, "Nothing Is Left Alone for Too Long": Reality Programming and Control Society Subjects, *Journal of Communication Inquiry* 2006; 30; 65

Bratich, Jack, "Amassing the Multitude: Revisiting Early Audience Studies" *Communication Theory* 15:3 August 2005 Pages 242–265

**Week 8 Foucauldian Communication/Media History
March 9**

Mattelart, Armand. Selections from *The Invention of Communication*. (1998)

Kittler, F. "Media History" (2006)

Daston, Lorraine and Gallison, Peter, "Mechanical Objectivity" and "Representation to Presentation" from *Objectivity*, Zone 2007.

Week 9 Kittler and Technologies of Inscription

March 16

Kittler, Friedrich, “Translators Introduction (xi-xxxviii)” “Preface (xxxix-xli)”
“Introduction (1-19)” and “Typewriter excerpt (243-263)” (from *Gramophone/
Film/Typewriter*, 1986/1999)

Kittler, F. “Media Wars: Trenches, Lightning, Stars”
Winthrop-Young, “Kittler and his Terrorists.”

Week 10 Technological Apparatus

March 23

Foucault, “Polemics, Politics, and Problematizations” (from *EF*)

Foucault, M. (1996c). “Problematics.” In S. Lotringer (Ed.), *Foucault live: Collected interviews, 1961–1984* (pp. 416–422). New York, NY: Semiotext(e).

Foucault, “The Confessions of the Flesh.” In *Power/Knowledge*. 194-228.

Deleuze, “What is a Dispositif?” in *Michel Foucault: Philosopher*, Routledge 1992.

Agamben, *What Is an Apparatus?* (2009)

Jeffrey Bussolini, “What is a Dispositive?” (2010) *Foucault Studies*.

Week 11 Technologies of the Self

March 30

Foucault, “The Subject and Power” (EF, 1982/1997)

Foucault, “Technologies of the Self” (EF, 1982/1997)

Foucault, “On a Genealogy of Ethics” (EF, 1983/1997)

Foucault, “The Ethics of the Concern for Self as a Practice of Freedom” (EF, 1984/1997)

Foucault, *The Use of Pleasure: History of Sexuality Vol. II*, Introduction and Part I, (1-92)

Week 12 Presentations

April 6

Final Essays Due April 10 at Noon

Statement of Acknowledgement of Traditional Land

We wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates.

For thousands of years it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River.

Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.

Writing Support

As stated in the iSchool's Grade Interpretation Guidelines, "work that is not well written and grammatically correct will not generally be considered eligible for a grade in the A range, regardless of its quality in other respects". With this in mind, please make use of the writing support provided to graduate students by the SGS Office of English Language and Writing Support (<http://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/currentstudents/Pages/English-Language-and-Writing-Support.aspx>). The services are designed to target the needs of both native and non-native speakers and all programs are free. Please consult the current workshop schedule (<http://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/currentstudents/Pages/Current-Years-Courses.aspx>) for more information.

Academic integrity

Please consult the University's site on Academic Integrity (<http://academicintegrity.utoronto.ca/>). The iSchool has a zero-tolerance policy on plagiarism as defined in section B.I.1.(d) of the University's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/ppjun011995.pdf>). You should acquaint yourself with the Code. Please review the material in Cite it Right and if you require further clarification, consult the site How Not to Plagiarize (<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>). Cite it Right covers relevant parts of the U of T *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (1995)*. It is expected that all iSchool students take the Cite it Right workshop and the online quiz. Completion of the online Cite it Right quiz should be made prior to the second week of classes. To review and complete the workshop, visit the orientation portion of the iSkills site: uoft.me/iskills

Accommodations

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you have a disability or a health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the Accessibility Services Office (<http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/as>) as soon as possible. The Accessibility Services staff are available by appointment to assess needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations. The sooner you let them and I know your needs, the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.