COURSE AIMS
Until quite recently Foucault was best known within political studies as a ‘postmodern’ theorist of discourse or perhaps for his path-breaking historical studies of modern regimes of madness, medicine, delinquency, and sexuality. Yet in his later work he also examined the government of the state and what he called the history of ‘governmentality’. While his studies in this field were never fully worked up into monographs, researchers in many areas of the social sciences have since taken up his initial hypotheses and concepts. As a result there is today a considerable interdisciplinary literature concerning ‘governmentality’. This course will introduce students to these Foucauldian studies of government. It will pay special attention to the relevance of governmentality for political studies and world politics. If it is still the case that governmentality has made a much greater impact on fields like sociology and criminology than political science, then this is unfortunate. The governmentality literature offers a way to theorize many aspects of contemporary political transformations that seem to confound more conventional political science approaches.

While this is a theoretically oriented course, it is not an exercise in academic political theory. Most of Foucault’s research was related to concrete questions, specific discourses, and institutional complexes of power – prisons, clinics, systems of administration, etc. In a similar vein, governmentality studies stands apart from much contemporary social theory in its rejection of meta-concepts like ‘modernity’ or ‘globalization’. Instead, it has engaged in contextual and finely grained empirical investigations of particular problem-sites.

Accordingly, besides introducing governmentality studies, the aim of this course is to provide students with insights and concepts in order to develop empirically focused research projects. The final two weeks of the course will take the form of mini-conferences where participants will present their work in progress. The themes for the conference panels will reflect students’ particular research interests.
COURSE TEXTS

You should purchase Walters’ *Governmentality: Critical Encounters* (Routledge 2012) which we will refer to throughout the course. Copies are available at Octopus Books (Second Avenue). Foucault’s *Security, Territory, Population* (Palgrave 2007) is also recommended and widely available. All other required readings will be available through the library online journals or online.

READING AHEAD
Reading ahead of the beginning of the course is strongly advised, especially for students new to the theme. The following is a short list of recommended books and articles that do a good job of mapping the scene and addressing some of its problems.

Hindess, Barry. 1996 *Discourses of Power: From Hobbes to Foucault* (Blackwell) Ch. 5 

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- In Class Presentation 10%
- Participation 10%
- Short Essay (Feb 6) 25%
- Mini Conference Presentation 15%
- Research Paper (Apr 10) 40%
1. **One in-class presentation** (MAX. 10 mins) (10%). Each student will be responsible for one reading selected from one of the weeks. Your task is not to present the reading as such. Instead, think of your reading as a tool that might be used, perhaps with some adaptation, to understand something else. For example, how might some insight drawn from Foucault's essay on ‘the subject and power’ (week 4) be useful in understanding a very contemporary struggle over, say, the rights of patients? It would help if you can illustrate this connection/case, either with a handout in class or by using online materials.

2. **Preparation for and active participation** in weekly seminars. (10%)

3. **One short essay** (Text plus footnotes or endnotes should be 2000 words – please adhere to the limit. The bibliography is additional to the word count.) **Question:** “What is genealogy?” (25%) (due in class Feb 6). Some guidelines for the paper:
   - What distinguishes genealogy as an approach to political and historical analysis? Is it a ‘theory’ or something else? What are its strengths and limitations? How does it compare with other theories/approaches (e.g., Marxism or rational choice)?
   - You are strongly encouraged to frame your answer in terms of a particular issue or problem. Of course, in just 2000 words you cannot possibly write the genealogy of X! But you can engage in a thought exercise and outline what a genealogical approach to X might look like, what issues it would have to consider etc. For example, see the further reading by Baker, K.M., 1994. “A Foucauldian French Revolution?” In *Foucault and the Writing of History*, edited by Jan Goldstein. Oxford: Blackwell.

4. **Presentation** (12 mins) of your work-in-progress at one of the mini-conferences during weeks 11 and 13 (15%). These will take the form of panels of three or four papers. We will agree the themes for the panels based on a survey of students’ research interests later in the term.

5. **Major research paper.** **Word length:** For graduate students: 5000 words; for undergraduates: 4000 words including footnotes but not including bibliography) (40%) (leave in Political Science drop box before 12 noon, Apr 10). For this paper you are strongly encouraged to develop the short essay into a research paper.

6. **Late penalties:** One half grade will be deducted for each day late. Hence, if your short essay were submitted on Apr 11 instead of Apr 10, you would drop from, say, A to A-.

**THEMES AND READINGS**

1. **Introduction** (Jan 9)

   **I. CONCEPTS AND METHODS**

2. **Questions of power** (Jan 16)


[Connor]


Further Reading


Deleuze, Gilles. 1988 *Foucault*. Minneapolis: U. Minnesota Press (see the chapter on the 'new cartographer')


Smart, B. *Michel Foucault*.

McNay, L. *Foucault: A Critical Introduction*

Question: where do ‘discipline’ and ‘control’ come from?

3. **Foucault’s tool box I: analytics, genealogy, problematization, event (Jan 23)**


Question: Is a genealogy any different from a theory of the state?

4. **Foucault’s tool box II: power, subjectification, critique, freedom (Jan 30)**


Further reading for weeks 3 and 4


Fraser, Nancy. 2003. ‘From discipline to flexibilization: rereading Foucault in the shadow of globalization’. *Constellations* 10(2).
Question: Are subjects political actors, sites of struggle in their own right, or both?

5. Governmentality: Foucault’s Lectures at the Collège de France (Feb 6)

Overview: Donzelot, J. 2008 ‘Michel Foucault and liberal intelligence’, *Economy and Society* 37: 115-134.


Foucault, Michel. 2007. *Security, Territory, Population*, New York, Palgrave, Ch. 4

Foucault, Michel. 2008 *The Birth of Biopolitics*. New York: Palgrave, Ch. 1.*

Question: Where does governmentality come from?

6. After Foucault: Governmentality Studies (Feb 13)


Walters, W. 2012 *Governmentality: Critical Encounters*, ch. 2

Question: Can governmentality studies analyze social struggles and contestation or is it confined to the analysis of strategies of rule and ordering?
7. Reading Week (No Class) (Feb 20)

8. Other governmentalities (Feb 27)
Ewald, F. 1991 'Insurance and Risk' in The Foucault Effect (eds Burchell et al)

Further reading (weeks 7-8)
Foucault, Michel 2007. Security, Territory, Population, Ch. 5 (pastoral power)
Foucault, Michel 2008. The Birth of Biopolitics, Ch. 2 (liberalism)
Jessop, B. 2003. ‘Governance and meta-governance’ in Bang, HP (ed) Governance as social and political communication. Manchester UP.


Butler, Judith. 2004 *Precarious Life* (Verso) Ch. 3 ('Indefinite detention').


Question: Is governmentality studies relevant to other societies besides liberal democracies?


Further Reading


Question: What does the idea of *technologies of politics* bring to political analysis?

10. Governmentality and Internationality (Mar 13)


Further reading,
Dillon, M. ‘Sovereignty and Governmentality’. Alternatives 20(3) 1995

Question: Are the tools and concepts of governmentality studies equally applicable and useful for domestic and international worlds?

III. STUDENT PROJECTS

11. Mini-conferences I (Mar 20)

12. No Class (Prof at Intl. Studies Association Meetings) (Mar 27)

13. Mini-Conferences II (Apr 3)

Academic Accommodations

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your *Letter of Accommodation* at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*).

For Religious Observance: Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance (www.carleton.ca/equity).

For Pregnancy: Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.
**Plagiarism:** The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

**Oral Examination:** At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on research papers and essays.

**Submission and Return of Term Work:** Papers must be handed directly to the instructor and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at 4 p.m., stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Please note that assignments sent via fax or email will not be accepted. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

**Grading:** Assignments and exams will be graded with a percentage grade. To convert this to a letter grade or to the university 12-point system, please refer to the following table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>12-point scale</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>12-point scale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>63-66</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>60-62</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>57-59</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>53-56</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>50-52</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grades:** Final grades are derived from the completion of course assignments. Failure to write the final exam will result in the grade ABS. Deferred final exams are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course.
Approval of final grades: Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Carleton E-mail Accounts: All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via official Carleton university e-mail accounts and/or cuLearn. As important course and University information is distributed this way, it is the student’s responsibility to monitor their Carleton and cuLearn accounts.

Carleton Political Science Society: The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. Holding social events, debates, and panel discussions, CPSS aims to involve all political science students at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through numerous opportunities which will complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, visit [http://facebook.com/CarletonPoliticalScienceSociety](http://facebook.com/CarletonPoliticalScienceSociety) or come to our office in Loeb D688.

Official Course Outline: The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.