COURSE THEMES AND OBJECTIVES
For many years 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, putting them to work in diverse problem fields. 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 a little strange. The governmentality literature offers a way to theorize many aspects of contemporary political transformations that seem to confound more conventional political science approaches.

The course has three specific aims:

1. To introduce and situate the theme of governmentality within the wider field of Foucault's thought, Foucault-oriented studies and political studies broadly conceived.

2. To undertake a critical reading of these studies of governmentality. This second aim is motivated by a tendency in the literature wherein governmentality has become substantified and reified, turned into a 'logic' of power (e.g., by making it almost synonymous with liberalism or governance). As an antidote to this tendency the course will re-read governmentality in light of Foucault's anti-essentialist and historicist methods.

3. To distill from studies of governmentality certain orientations, guidelines and tools that can be fruitfully put to work in the pursuit of students' own research projects. In other words the course will approach Foucault and governmentality less as an exercise in
political theory, more in the spirit of concepts and tools that can be deployed in case-focused studies of political power and across key problem sites. 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**
All required readings will be available either through the regular journal links in the library catalogue, or as PDFs on ARES (in which case reading is marked with [*]).

Copies of my own *Governmentality: Critical Encounters* (Routledge 2012) will be available for purchase at Octopus Books. It is not required reading but it will give you a good sense of my approach to this topic.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

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<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>In Class Presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short Essay (Feb 9)</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mini Conference Presentation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper (Apr 8)</td>
<td>40%</td>
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1. **One in-class presentation** (MAX. 10 mins) (10%). Each student will be responsible for one reading selected from one of the weeks. You should keep any summary to a bare minimum (e.g., 3 mins). With the remainder of your time try to identify (i) one strength or contribution of the reading (it always helps if you can draw our attention to specific pages and sections) (ii) a weakness (iii) one way the reading might speak to a concrete issue or problem.

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

3. **One short essay** (2000 words – The bibliography is additional to the word count.)

**Question:** “What is genealogy?” (25%) (due in class Feb 9). 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 13 and 14 (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 8). 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 9 instead of Apr 8, you would drop from, say, A to A-.

**THEMES AND READINGS**

1. **Introduction (Jan 5)**

2. **Genealogy I (Jan 12)**

3. **Genealogy II (Jan 19)**
   - Two Cases:

Further Reading for Weeks 2 and 3
- Walters, W. 2012. *Governmentality: Critical Encounters,* Routledge, Ch.4
- Dreyfus, H. and P. Rabinow, *Michel Foucault: Beyond Structuralism and Hermeneutics.*

4. **Micro-physics and Micro-Powers (Jan 26)**

**5. Governmentality (Feb 2)**

Further Reading
Hindess, Barry. 1996 Discourses of Power: From Hobbes to Foucault (Blackwell) Ch. 5
Butler, Judith. 2004 *Precarious Life* (Verso) Ch. 3 ('Indefinite detention').

**6. Foucault and Political Science (Feb 9)**
Fraser, Nancy. 2003. 'From discipline to flexibilization: rereading Foucault in the shadow of globalization'. *Constellations* 10(2).
Lemke, Thomas. 2003. ‘Comment on Nancy Fraser’. *Constellations* 10(2).


Brass, P. 2000. 'Foucault steals political science', Annual Review of Political Science 3: 305-30;

Further Reading


7. Reading Week (Feb 16)

8. Governmentality after Foucault: The Case of Neoliberalism (Feb 23)


9. Governmentality and Beyond (Mar 2)


Further Reading (weeks 8 and 9)


10. Analyzing Politics and The Political (Mar 9)

Fassin, D. 2009. 'Another Politics of Life is Possible', Theory, Culture & Society 26: 44-60.

Further Reading

11. International Governmentality: Perspectives (Mar 16)

12. International Governmentality: Critiques (Mar 23)

Further Reading (weeks 11 and 12)


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


13. Mini-Conference I (Mar 30)

14. Mini-Conference II (Apr 6)

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 may include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

Submission and Return of Term Work: Papers must be submitted directly to the instructor according to the instructions in the course outline 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. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

Grading: Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Final standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points is:
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>12-point scale</th>
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<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
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<td>67-69</td>
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**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 [https://www.facebook.com/groups/politicalsciencesociety/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/politicalsciencesociety/) 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.