Carleton University
Department of Political Science

PSCI 4303 / 5303 / SOC 5407
Governmentality and Politics
Seminar: Mondays 11.35 - 14.25
Location: A602 Loeb

Instructor: Professor William Walters
Office: C673 Loeb
Office Hours: Weds 12.30 - 14.30; or by appointment.
Telephone: SMS to 613 854 4953
Email: william.walters@carleton.ca

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 distil 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.
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 [*]).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In Class Presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Essay (Feb 10)</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mini Conference Presentation</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper (Apr 7)</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. **One in-class presentation** (10 mins, not less or more!) **(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 on Feb 10 - submit via CuLearn)*.

   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** (10 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%)** *(Due on Apr 7; submit via CuLearn)*. 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 14 instead of Apr 13, you would drop from, say, A to A-.

**THEMES AND READINGS**

1. **Introduction (Jan 9)**

2. **What is genealogy? (Jan 16)**

3. **Foucault and Political Science (Jan 23)**

4. **Analytics of Power and Government (Jan 30)**

5. **Foucault and Methods (Feb 6)**

6. **Logics and Technologies of Government: The Case of Security (Feb 13)**
7. Reading Week (No Class) (Feb 20)

8. Emergent Territories, Objects, and Spaces (Feb 27)
D'Aoust, A.-M. 2013. 'In the Name of Love: Marriage Migration, Governmentality, and Technologies of Love', International Political Sociology 7(3): 258-274.


9. A Genealogy of Politics (Mar 13)

10. Mini-conference I (Mar 20)

11. Mini-conference II (Mar 27)

12. No class (Apr 3) - Professor at conference in Vancouver. Instead of a class there will be one-on-one meetings with all students to discuss their presentations and develop their papers. Exact dates TBC.

FURTHER READING (IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER)

1. Commentaries on Foucault and governmentality
Dreyfus, H. and P. Rabinow, *Michel Foucault: Beyond Structuralism and Hermeneutics*.

2. Uses and extensions of Foucault's ideas


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


Butler, Judith. 2004 Precarious Life (Verso) Ch. 3 (‘Indefinite detention’).


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


3. Critiques of Foucault


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).


4. Critiques of governmentality studies


**Academic Accommodations**

**For students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Registered PMC students are required to contact the centre (613-520-6608) every term to ensure that the instructor receives your request for accommodation. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet with the instructor in order to discuss your needs at least two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by (November 9th, 2012 for December examinations and March 8th, 2013 for April examinations).

**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.
**Connect Email Accounts:** All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via Connect. Important course and University information is also distributed via the Connect email system. It is the student’s responsibility to monitor their Connect account.

**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 in the after-hours academic life 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, please email carletonpss@gmail.com, visit our website at poliscisociety.com, 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.