When given the opportunity in 1970 to name his chair at the Collège de France, Michel Foucault (1926-1984) chose the title Professor of the History of Systems of Thought. At the heart of Foucault's research interest in the historical formation, development, and practice of various systems of thought is the intertwinement of knowledge and power. This course will explore the relationship between knowledge and power through intensive readings and discussions of several of Foucault's key texts and select complementary works. Special attention will be given to three famous debates Foucault had with other prominent intellectuals (Derrida, Chomsky, Habermas), as well as Foucauldian terminology, including archaeology, bio-power, discourse, episteme, genealogy, governmentality, panopticism, among others. Students will also visit the Brandeis Archives & Special Collections department on three separate occasions to explore archival materials related to the course readings.

**Learning Goals**

1. Students should leave this course with a foundation in archival research;
2. a greater understanding of the relationship between knowledge and power in systems of thought;
3. an increased ability to read, think, and write critically.

**Grade Breakdown**

Participation: 15%
Debate Analysis (3-5 pages): 15%
Short Analytical Paper (3-5 pages): 15%
Archive Commentary (4-6 pages): 20%
Final Paper (10-12 pages): 35%

**Required Texts:** [All other texts will be available on the course LATTE site]

Michel Foucault – *The Archaeology of Knowledge* [AK]

Michel Foucault – *The Foucault Reader* [FR]

Michel Foucault – *Power/Knowledge: Selected Interviews and Other Writings, 1972-1977* [PK]
Introduction and Archives

August 27 – Welcome!

No readings

September 1 – Overview of Power

Truth and Power [KP]
The Subject and Power [LATTE]

September 3 – Meet in Archives & Special Collections department to discuss Middlesex University Medical School

Guest speakers: Maggie McNeely and Surella Seelig

The Politics of Health in the Eighteenth Century [PK]
Mike Featherstone – Archive [LATTE]

Debate with Derrida and the History of Madness

September 8 – Madness and Civilization

Compelle Intrare [LATTE]
The Great Confinement [FR]
The Birth of the Asylum [FR]

September 17 – Debate #1 - Derrida on Descartes and Madness

Jacques Derrida - Cogito and the History of Madness [LATTE]
My Body, This Paper, This Fire [LATTE]
René Descartes – First Meditation [LATTE]

The Order of Things

September 22 – Humanism

The Human Sciences [LATTE]

September 24 – Representation

Foreword; Preface; Las Meninas [LATTE]

First Assignment Due: September 27th via email by 11:59pm

The Archaeology of Knowledge I

October 1 – Key Concept: Discourse

Pages 3-76 [AK]
October 6 – *Formations*
   Pages 79-125 [AK]

**The Archaeology of Knowledge II**

October 8 – *Meet in Special Collections to discuss Diderot and d’Almbert’s Encyclopedie*
   Pages 126-156 [AK]

October 13 – *Critiquing the History of Ideas*
   Pages 157-195 [AK]
   Thomas Kuhn – The Route to Normal Science [LATTE]

**The Archaeology of Knowledge III**

October 15 – *Beyond Structuralism*
   Conclusion [AK]
   The Discourse on Language [AK]

October 20 – *Methodological Precautions*
   Two Lectures [PK]
   Nietzsche, Freud, Marx [LATTE]

**Debate with Chomsky and Genealogy**

October 22 – *Key Concept: Genealogy*
   Nietzsche, Genealogy, History [FR]
   Friedrich Nietzsche - Preface from *On the Genealogy of Morals* [LATTE]

October 27 – *Debate #2 - Screening of the Chomsky/Foucault debate*
   On Popular Justice: A Discussion with Maoists [PK]

**Discipline and Punish**

October 29 – *Disciplinary Society*
   The Body of the Condemned [FR]
   Docile Bodies [FR]
   The Means of Correct Training [FR]
   Body/Power [PK]

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*Second Assignment Due: October 30th via email by 11:59pm*

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November 3 – *Key Concept: Panopticism*
   Panopticism [FR]
November 5 – *Meet in Special Collections to discuss Sacco and Vanzetti collection*
Complete and Austere Institutions [FR]
Illegalities and Delinquencies [FR]
The Carceral [FR]
Gilles Deleuze – Postscript on Control Societies [LATTE]

**Space**

November 10 – *Key Concept: Heterotopia*
Different Spaces [LATTE]
Henri Lefebvre – Space: Social Product and Use Value [LATTE]

November 12 – *Architecture and Geography*
Questions on Geography [KP]
Space, Knowledge, Power [FR]

**Debate with Habermas and Governmentality**

November 17 – *Debate #3 - Habermas on Enlightenment*
What is Enlightenment? [FR]
Jürgen Habermas - Taking Aim at the Heart of the Present [LATTE]
Immanuel Kant - Answer to the Question: “What is Enlightenment?” [LATTE]

November 19 – *Key Concept: Governmentality*
Governmentality [LATTE]
Power and Strategies [KP]

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_Third Assignment Due: November 22nd via email by 11:59pm_

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**History of Sexuality**

November 24 – *Key Concept: Bio-Power*
Right to Death and Power over Life [FR]
The History of Sexuality [KP]
The Confession of the Flesh [KP]

December 1 – *Sex and Truth*
We “Other Victorians” [FR]
The Repressive Hypothesis [FR]
Self and Conclusion

December 3 – Practices and Sciences of the Self
   Preface to The History of Sexuality, Volume II [FR]
   On the Genealogy of Ethics: An Overview of Work in Progress [FR]

December 8 – Authorship
   What is an Author? [FR]
   Roland Barthes – Death of the Author [LATTE]

Final Essay Due: December 15th via email by 11:59pm

Course Reserves (Available at the Information and Borrowing Desk):

Michel Foucault – The Archaeology of Knowledge
   AZ101 .F6813 1982

Michel Foucault – Foucault Reader
   B2430 .F721 1984

Michel Foucault – Power/Knowledge: Selected Interviews and Other Writings, 1972-1977
   HM291 .F59 1980

David Macey – The Lives of Michel Foucault
   B2430 .F724 M327 1993

Paul Rabinow and Hubert Dreyfus – Michel Foucault: Beyond Structuralism and Hermeneutics
   B2430 .F72 D73

Course Policies:

Academic Integrity: University Policy: “You are expected to be familiar with, and to follow, the University's policies on academic integrity. Please consult Brandeis University Rights and Responsibilities for all policies and procedures. All policies related to academic integrity apply to in-class and take home projects, assignments, exams, and quizzes. Students may only collaborate on assignments with permission from the instructor. Allegations of alleged academic dishonesty will be forwarded to the Director of Academic Integrity. Sanctions for academic dishonesty can include failing grades and/or suspension from the university.”

Four-Credit Course (with three hours of class-time per week): University Policy: “Success in the 4 credit hour course is based on the expectation that students will spend a minimum of 9 hours of study time per week in preparation for class (readings, papers, discussion sections, preparation for exams, etc.).”
Attendance and Participation: Students are expected to attend every class, read the assigned readings, and contribute to the discussion. The participation grade will be based on the quality of contribution to the class discussion, not the quantity. More than two unexcused absences will result in a 5% deduction of the final grade.

Assignment Format: Students should submit typed assignments using a 12-point font, 1-inch page margins, and double spacing. The citation style must be consistent, and a bibliography must be submitted if a work is cited.

Deadlines: Students are expected to submit assignments on time. Submitting an assignment after the deadline will result in a 5% per day deduction in the assignment grade, unless a documented excuse can be provided more than 24 hours before the assignment deadline. No assignment will be accepted after it has been late for 5 days.

Syllabus Alterations: Students will be notified if the syllabus needs to be altered in any way - for example, because of a snow day during scheduled class time.

Technology: Students will be expected to take notes with paper and a pen or pencil. Laptops and tablets should not be used during class time, and it is expected that all cell phones will be off during class time.

Disabilities: University Policy: “If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me immediately.”