PHIL 3850 Power and Subjectivity:
Course Overview

Course Co-ordinator: Chris Falzon
Room: MC120
Ph: 4921 5184
Fax: 4921 6933
Email: Chris.Falzon@newcastle.edu.au
Consultation hours: Tuesday 4-5

Brief Course Description
The concept of power is central to social and political theory, but raises many questions: what constitutes power and how should it be defined? What kind of agents exercise power? Is the power of one agent necessarily antagonistic to another? Is power essentially repressive in its effects? Is power necessarily external and opposed to the freedom of individuals, or is it possible to understand human subjectivity itself in terms of power? This course will examine a range of answers to these and other questions, drawn from a number of sources, with particular emphasis on the work of Foucault.

Course Objectives
(1) Impart to students familiarity with, and knowledge of, the main issues addressed and approaches taken with respect to the notion of power.
(2) Impart to students skills in reading philosophical texts and critically analysing issues.
(3) Impart to students critical skills to appreciate and engage in contemporary debates over power.
(4) Develop high level written and oral skills in analysing and presenting philosophical issues as they emerge in contemporary debates.

Course Outline Issued and Correct as at: Week 1, Semester 1 - 2007

CTS Download Date: 9/02/07
Course Content
(1) Presentation of subjectivist notions of power
(2) Presentation of Marxist conceptions of power
(3) Presentation of structuralist notions of power
(4) Presentation of Foucault's conception of power
(5) Presentation of critical debates concerning Foucault's account and its implications for ethics and socio-political critique.

Assessment Items

| Essays / Written Assignments | An essay of 4,000 words (worth 50%) These assignments will require the student to explain the central concepts, principles and arguments of the material studied, guided by the assigned readings and seminar discussion. The latter provides continual assessment and feedback on individual student ability to properly engage the course matter. |
| Examination: Take Home | A take-home exam of 2,500 words (worth 30%) |
| Presentations - Individual | A presentation, 30 minutes, approximately 1,500 words (worth 20%) |

Assumed Knowledge
At least 10 Credit Points of PHIL courses at 1000 level or 40 credit points of any other courses at any level.

Callaghan Campus Timetable
PHIL3850
POWER AND SUBJECTIVITY
Enquiries: School of Humanities and Social Science
Semester 1 - 2007
Lecture Tuesday 13:00 - 16:00 [MCG28C]

University policy prohibits students plagiarising any material under any circumstances. A student plagiarises if he or she presents the thoughts or works of another as one's own. Without limiting the generality of this definition, it may include: copying or paraphrasing material from any source without due acknowledgment; using another's ideas without due acknowledgment; working with others without permission and presenting the resulting work as though it was completed independently.

Plagiarism is not only related to written works, but also to material such as data, images, music, formulae, websites and computer programs. Aiding another student to plagiarise is also a violation of the Plagiarism Policy and may invoke a penalty. For further information on the University policy on plagiarism, please refer to the Policy on Student Academic Integrity at the following link - http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000608.html

The University has established a software plagiarism detection system called Turnitin. When you submit assessment items please be aware that for the purpose of assessing any assessment item the University may
- Reproduce this assessment item and provide a copy to another member of the University; and/or
- Communicate a copy of this assessment item to a plagiarism checking service (which may then retain a copy of the item on its database for the purpose of future plagiarism checking).
- Submit the assessment item to other forms of plagiarism checking

Written Assessment Items
Students may be required to provide written assessment items in electronic form as well as hard copy.

Extension of Time for Assessment Items, Deferred Assessment and Special Consideration for Assessment Items or Formal Written Examinations
Students are required to submit assessment items by the due date, as advised in the Course Outline, unless the Course Coordinator approves an extension of time for submission of the item. University policy is that an assessment item submitted after the due date, without an approved extension, will be penalised.

Any student:
- who is applying for an extension of time for submission of an assessment item on the basis of medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment;
- whose attendance at or performance in an assessment item or formal written examination has been or will be affected by medical, compassionate, hardship/trauma or unavoidable commitment;
must report the circumstances, with supporting documentation, to the appropriate officer following the instructions provided in the Special Circumstances Affecting Assessment Procedure - Policy 000641.

Note: different procedures apply for minor and major assessment tasks. Please go to the Policy at http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html for further information, particularly for information on the options available to you.

Students should be aware of the following important deadlines:
- Requests for Special Consideration must be lodged no later than 3 working days after the date of submission or examination.
- Requests for Extensions of Time on Assessment Items must be lodged no later than the due date of the item.
- Requests for Rescheduling Exams must be lodged no later than 10 working days before the date of the examination.
Your application may not be accepted if it is received after the deadline. Students who are unable to meet the above deadlines due to extenuating circumstances should speak to their Program Officer in the first instance.

Changing your Enrolment
The last dates to withdraw without financial or academic penalty (called the HECS Census Dates) are: For semester 1 courses: 31 March 2007.

Students may withdraw from a course without academic penalty on or before the last day of semester. Any withdrawal from a course after the last day of semester will result in a fail grade.

Students cannot enrol in a new course after the second week of semester/trimester, except under exceptional circumstances. Any application to add a course after the second week of semester/trimester must be on the appropriate form, and should be discussed with staff in the Student Hubs.

To change your enrolment online, please refer to http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/enrolment/changingenrolment.html
Faculty Information
The Student Hubs are a one-stop shop for the delivery of student related services and are the first point of contact for students on campus. The four Student Hubs are located at:

**Callaghan campus**
- Shortland Hub: Level 3, Shortland Union Building
- Hunter Hub: Student Services Centre, Hunter side of campus

**City Precinct**
- City Hub & Information Common: University House, ground floor in combination with an Information Common for the City Precinct

**Ourimbah campus**
- Ourimbah Hub: Administration Building

Faculty websites

Contact details

**Callaghan, City and Port Macquarie**
Phone: 02 4921 5000
Email: EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au

**Ourimbah**
Phone: 02 4348 4030
Email: EnquiryCentre@newcastle.edu.au

The Dean of Students
Resolution Precinct Phone: 02 4921 5806 Fax: 02 4921 7151
Email: resolutionprecinct@newcastle.edu.au

Deputy Dean of Students (Ourimbah)
Phone: 02 4348 4123 Fax: 02 4348 4145
Email: resolutionprecinct@newcastle.edu.au

Various services are offered by the University Student Support Unit: [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/studentsupport/index.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/studentsupport/index.html)

Alteration of this Course Outline
No change to this course outline will be permitted after the end of the second week of the term except in exceptional circumstances and with Head of School approval. Students will be notified in advance of any approved changes to this outline.

Web Address for Rules Governing Undergraduate Academic Awards

STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY OR CHRONIC ILLNESS
The University is committed to providing a range of support services for students with a disability or chronic illness. If you have a disability or chronic illness which you feel may impact on your studies, please feel free to discuss your support needs with your lecturer or course coordinator.

Disability Support may also be provided by the Student Support Service (Disability). Students must be registered to receive this type of support. To register please
contact the Disability Liaison Officer on 02 4921 5766, or via email at: student-disability@newcastle.edu.au As some forms of support can take a few weeks to implement it is extremely important that you discuss your needs with your lecturer, course coordinator or Student Support Service staff at the beginning of each semester. For more information related to confidentiality and documentation please visit the Student Support Service (Disability) website at: www.newcastle.edu.au/services/disability

OTHER INFORMATION

Online Tutorial Registration:
Students are required to register in the Seminar or Lecture and a specific Tutorial time for this course via the Online Registration system:
Registrations close at the end of week 2 of semester.

Studentmail and Blackboard: www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/
This course uses Blackboard and studentmail to contact students, so you are advised to keep your email accounts within the quota to ensure you receive essential messages. To receive an expedited response to queries, post questions on the Blackboard discussion forum if there is one, or if emailing staff directly use the course code in the subject line of your email. Students are advised to check their studentmail and the course Blackboard site on a weekly basis.

Student Representatives
Student Representatives are a major channel of communication between students and the School. Contact details of Student Representatives can be found on School websites.

Student Communication
Students should discuss any course related matters with their Tutor, Lecturer, or Course Coordinator in the first instance and then the relevant Discipline or Program Convenor. If this proves unsatisfactory, they should then contact the Head of School if required. Contact details can be found on the School website.

Essential Online Information for Students
Information on Class and Exam Timetables, Tutorial Online Registration, Learning Support, Campus Maps, Careers information, Counselling, the Health Service and a range of free Student Support Services can be found at:
PHIL3850 – POWER AND SUBJECTIVITY
Course Outline

TEXTS

Foucault's *Discipline and Punish* and *History of Sexuality* vol. 1 are the prescribed texts for the course. They are available at the Co-op Bookshop in Perkins St in town. It is recommended that you buy the prescribed texts, but copies will be placed in the Short Loans section of the library.

The reading for each week is listed in the course outline and is either from the prescribed texts or available through the Auchmuty Library Short Loans service (either in pdf file format or in print format). In addition, supplementary reading has been placed on Short Loans.

LECTURES AND READINGS

Lectures are on Tuesdays, 1-4 pm in MCG28C
(a combination of lecture, student presentation and discussion).

Week 1 20 February
Introduction. Why study power? Power and the question of the subject.
Reading: Connolly, W., ‘Power and Responsibility’

Week 2 27 February
Subjectivist notions of power: Lukes and 'real interests'
Reading: Lukes, S., *Power: A Radical View* [short loan]

Week 3 6 March
Human nature, alienation and the 'dominant ideology thesis'.
Reading: Marcuse, H., Introduction from *An Essay on Liberation*

Week 4 13 March
Structural notions of power
Reading: Isaac, J., 'The Concept of Power Revisited'.

Week 5 20 March
Introduction to Foucault: Sovereign power and punishment.
Reading: Foucault, M., *Discipline and Punish*: Pt 1 - 'The Body of the Condemned'

Week 6 27 March
Discipline and modern forms of punishment: the notion of disciplinary power.
Reading: Foucault, M., *Discipline and Punish* Pt 3, sect 1 - 'Docile Bodies'; sect 2 - 'The Means of Correct Training'; sect 3 - 'Panopticism'
Week 7  3 April
Some general features of Foucault's approach to power
Reading: Foucault, M., 'Disciplinary Power and Subjection'; History of Sexuality, Pt 4, sect 2 – 'Method'

MID-SEMESTER BREAK 6-20 April

Week 8  24 April
Reading week. No lecture.
Reading: Reading: Foucault, M., History of Sexuality, Pt 1 - 'We 'Other Victorians’.

Week 9  1 May
The history of sexuality, and its political deployment.
Reading: Foucault, M., History of Sexuality, Pt 2 - 'The Repressive Hypothesis'; Pt 4, sect 3 - 'Domain'.

Week 10  8 May
Modern power as power over life.
Reading: Foucault, M., History of Sexuality; Pt 5 - 'Right of Death and Power over Life'.

Week 11  15 May
Power creates subjects: Foucault on self-formation
Reading: Foucault, M., History of Sexuality, Pt 3 - 'Scientia Sexualis'; Preface to the History of Sexuality vol 2; 'The Subject and Power’, first part.

Week 12  22 May
Criticisms of Foucault

Week 13  29 May
Foucault: subjectivity, power and critique
Reading: Foucault, M., 'The Subject and Power', second part; 'What is Enlightenment?’
Essay due

Week 14  5 June
No lecture
Take-home exam due
ASSESSMENT

This course contains compulsory components or assessment items that must be satisfactorily completed in order for a student to receive a pass mark or better for the course. These essential elements are described in the CTS.

There are three pieces of assessment for this subject.
Presentation (1-1500 words)        Worth: 20%    Date: to be organized in first lecture
Essay (4000 words)                      Worth: 50%    Date: 29 May (week 12)
Take-home exam (2500 words)    Worth: 30%    Date: 4 June (week 13)

Presentation
The presentation will be on the weekly reading. After giving your presentation you will have a week to write it up and hand it in. Presentations will be organized in the first lecture.

Essay
The essay is due in week 12. These essays will require the student to explain the central concepts, principles and arguments of the material studied, guided by the assigned readings and seminar discussion.

Possible essay questions are:

1. Your own question on a topic of particular interest. This requires discussion with me at least 3 weeks before the essay is due.

2. Why do we need a concept of power? Justify your answer with reference to one or more substantive views regarding power.

3. Why does Lukes speak of his three-dimensional concept of power as being 'radical'? What are some of the conceptual and/or political problems with this concept of power?

4. Is the concept of power necessarily 'bounded by normative considerations', as Connolly suggests? Evaluate his claim in the light of proposed non-normative conceptions of power.

5. Must power presuppose the intention to act against another's interests, or can it be embodied in structural power relations? Justify your answer with specific examples.

6. ‘Now the study of this micro-physics presupposes that the power exercised on the body is conceived not as a property, but as a strategy; that its effects of domination are attributed not to 'appropriation', but to dispositions, maneouvres, tactics, techniques, functionings; that one should decipher in it a network of relations, constantly in tension, in activity, rather than a privilege that one might possess; that one should take as its model a perpetual battle rather than a contract regulating a transaction or the conquest of a territory'. (Discipline and Punish)
Discuss Foucault's account of power. How does it differ from more traditional accounts?
7. 'Power relations are both intentional and nonsubjective...there is no power that is exercised without a series of aims and objectives. But this does not mean that it results from the choice or decision of an individual subject' (*History of Sexuality* vol. 1)

Discuss Foucault's claim that there are operations of power that do not have a subject.

8. 'The obligation to confess is now relayed through so many different points, is so deeply ingrained in us, that we no longer perceive it as the effect of a power that constrains us; on the contrary, it seems to us that truth, lodged in our most secret nature, 'demands' only to surface; that if it fails to do so, this is because a constraint holds it in place, the violence of a power weighs it down, and it can finally be articulated only at the price of a kind of liberation. Confession frees, but power reduces one to silence; truth does not belong to the order of power, but shares an original affinity with freedom; traditional themes in philosophy, which a 'political history of truth' would have to overturn by showing that truth is not by nature free - nor error servile - but that its production is thoroughly imbued with relations of power' (*History of Sexuality* vol. 1)

Discuss Foucault's treatment of the 'obligation to confess' *History of Sexuality* vol 1.

**Exam**

This take-home exam, covering material in the lectures and readings, is designed to evaluate your overall understanding of the central course material. References outside lectures and readings are not necessary. Your exam should be typed, one-and-half or double-spaced, with a wide left-hand margin. The take-home exam will be given out in week 13 of the course.

**Written Assignment Presentation and Submission Details**

Students are required to submit assessment items by the due date. Late assignments will be subject to the penalties described below.

**Hard copy submission:**

- **Type your assignments:** All work must be typewritten in 11 or 12 point black font. Leave a wide margin for marker’s comments, use 1.5 or double spacing, and include page numbers.
- **Word length:** The word limit of all assessment items should be strictly followed – 10% above or below is acceptable, otherwise penalties may apply.
- **Proof read your work** because spelling, grammatical and referencing mistakes will be penalised.
- **Staple the pages** of your assignment together (do not use pins or paper clips).
- **University Assessment Item Coversheet:** All assignments must be submitted with the University coversheet available at: http://www.newcastle.edu.au/school/hss/studentlinks/studentform.html
- **By arrangement with the relevant lecturer, assignments may be submitted at any Student Hub located at:**
  - Level 3, Shortland Union, Callaghan
  - Level 2, Student Services Centre, Callaghan
  - Ground Floor, University House, City
  - Ground Floor, Administration Building, Ourimbah
- **Date-stamping assignments:** All students must date-stamp their own assignments using the machine provided at each Student Hub. Mailed assignments are accepted from the date posted, confirmed by a Post Office date-stamp; they are also date-stamped upon receipt by Schools.
- **Do not fax or email assignments**: Only hard copies of assignments will be considered for assessment. Inability to physically submit a hard copy of an assignment by the deadline due to other commitments or distance from campus is an unacceptable excuse.
- **Keep a copy of all assignments**: It is the student’s responsibility to produce a copy of their work if the assignment goes astray after submission. Students are advised to keep updated back-ups in electronic and hard copy formats.

**Online copy submission to Turnitin**

In addition to hard copy submission, students are required to submit an electronic version of the following assignments to Turnitin via the course Blackboard website:

- 4,000 word Essay

Prior to final submission, all students have the opportunity to submit one draft of their assignment to Turnitin to self-check their referencing. Assignments will not be marked until both hard copy and online versions have been submitted. Marks may be deducted for late submission of either version.

**Penalties for Late Assignments**

Assignments submitted after the due date, without an approved extension of time will be penalised by the **reduction of 5% of the possible maximum mark** for the assessment item for each day or part day that the item is late. Weekends count as one day in determining the penalty. Assessment items submitted **more than ten days** after the due date will be awarded **zero marks**.

**Special Circumstances**

Students wishing to apply for Special Circumstances or Extension of Time should apply online @ [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html)

**No Assignment Re-submission**

Students who have failed an assignment are not permitted to revise and resubmit it in this course. However, students are always welcome to contact their Tutor, Lecturer or Course Coordinator to make a consultation time to receive individual feedback on their assignments.

**Remarks**

Students can request to have their work re-marked by the Course Coordinator or Discipline Convenor (or their delegate); three outcomes are possible: the same grade, a lower grade, or a higher grade being awarded. Students may also appeal against their final result for a course. Please consult the University policy at: [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/forms/](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/forms/)

**Return of Assignments**

Students can collect assignments from a nominated Student Hub during office hours. Students will be informed during class which Hub to go to and the earliest date that assignments will be available for collection. Students must present their student identification card to collect their assignment.

**Preferred Referencing Style**

In this course, it is recommended that you use the use the Harvard in-text referencing system (similar to the APA system) for referencing sources of information used in assignments. Inadequate or incorrect reference to the work of others may be viewed as plagiarism and result in reduced marks or failure.

An in-text citation names the author of the source, gives the date of publication, and for a direct quote includes a page number, in parentheses. At the end of the paper, a
list of references provides publication information about the source; the list is alphabetised by authors' last names (or by titles for works without authors). Further information on referencing and general study skills can be obtained from:


SUPPLEMENTARY READING

General
Barnes, B., The Nature of Power, Polity, 1988
Pitkin, H., Wittgenstein and Justice, University of California Press, 1972

Behaviourist/Subjectivist Concepts of Power
Connolly, W., Terms of Political Discourse, Oxford, Martin Robertson, 1983
Lukes, S., Power: A Radical View, Macmillan, 1974
Lukes, S., 'Power and Structure', in S. Lukes (ed.), Essays in Social Theory, Macmillan, 1977
Taylor, C., 'What is Human Agency?', in Philosophical Papers Vol 1, Cambridge University Press, 1985
Taylor, C., 'Foucault on Freedom and Truth', in D. Hoy (ed.)

Marcuse
Katz, B., Herbert Marcuse and the Art of Liberation, NLB, 1982

Structural Concepts of Power
Benton, T., 'Realism, Power and Objective Interests', in K. Graham (ed.), *Contemporary Political Philosophy: Radical Studies*, Cambridge, 1982

**Foucault**

(1) **Collections of essays, interviews**

(2) **Key primary texts**
'Truth and Power', in Gordon (ed.) *Power/Knowledge*
'Power and Strategies', in Gordon (ed.), *Power/Knowledge*
'Two Lectures', in Gordon (ed.), *Power/Knowledge*; excerpt in Lukes (ed.) *Power*
'The Eye of Power', in Gordon (ed.), *Power/Knowledge*
'On Power', in Kritzman (ed), *Michel Foucault: Politics, Philosophy, Culture*
'Power and Sex', in Kritzman (ed.), *Michel Foucault: Politics, Philosophy, Culture*
'Governmentality', in Rabinow, (ed.) *Essential Works of Foucault vol. 3: Power*
'Questions of Method', in Rabinow, (ed.) *Essential Works of Foucault vol. 1: Ethics*
'Omnès et Singulatim: Towards a Criticism of "Political Reason”*, in Rabinow (ed.)
*Essential Works of Foucault vol. 3: Power*
'Sexuality and Solitude', in Rabinow (ed.) *Essential Works of Foucault vol. 1: Ethics*
'The Subject and Power', an 'Afterword' by Foucault, in H. Dreyfus and P. Rabinow, *Michel Foucault: Beyond Structuralism and Hermeneutics*
'Structuralism and Post-Structuralism', *Telos* No. 55, Spring 1983.
'The Ethic of Care for the Self', in J. Bernauer and D. Rasmussen (eds.), *The Final Foucault*
'What is Enlightenment', in Rabinow (ed), *The Foucault Reader*
'Preface' to *The History of Sexuality Vol. 2* in Rabinow (ed), *The Foucault Reader*
*The History of Sexuality Vol.2*, Pantheon, 1987

(3) **Secondary Sources**
— books
Poster, M., *Foucault, Marxism and History*, Polity Press, 1984

— **collections of articles**
Bernauer, J. and D. Rasmussen (eds), *The Final Foucault*, MIT Press, 1988
Diamond, I. and Quinby, L. (eds), *Feminism and Foucault*, Northeastern University Press, 1988

— **articles**
Bernauer, J., 'Foucault's Ecstatic Thinking' in J. Bernauer and D. Rasmussen (eds.), *The Final Foucault*
Bernauer, J., 'The Prisons of Man: An Introduction to Foucault's Negative Theology', *International Philosophical Quarterly* 27 (4), 1987
Bordo, S., 'Feminism, Foucault and the Politics of the Body', in Ramazanoglu (ed)
Dews, P., 'Power and Subjectivity in Foucault', *New Left Review* No. 144, 1984
Fraser, N., 'Michel Foucault: A "Young Conservative"?', *Ethics* Vol. 96 No. 1, October 1985
Gordon, C., 'Afterword', in C. Gordon (ed), *Power/Knowledge*
Habermas, J., 'Taking Aim at the Heart of the Present', in Hoy (ed.), *Foucault: A Critical Reader*
Hiley, D., 'Foucault and the Question of Enlightenment', *Philosophy and Social Criticism* Vol. 11, No. 1, Summer 1985
Hoy, D., 'Introduction', in Hoy (ed.), *Foucault: A Critical Reader*
Patton, P., 'Taylor and Foucault on Power and Freedom', *Political Studies*, 37, 1989
Wickham, G., 'Power and Power Analysis: Beyond Foucault', *Economy and Society* vol. 12, no. 4, 1983; reprinted in Gane (ed)
Wolin, S., 'On the Theory and Practice of Power', in Arac (ed)