

SOCSCI 3566-001 (949)
Power and Knowledge: A Theoretical Perspective on Visual Culture
Spring 2012

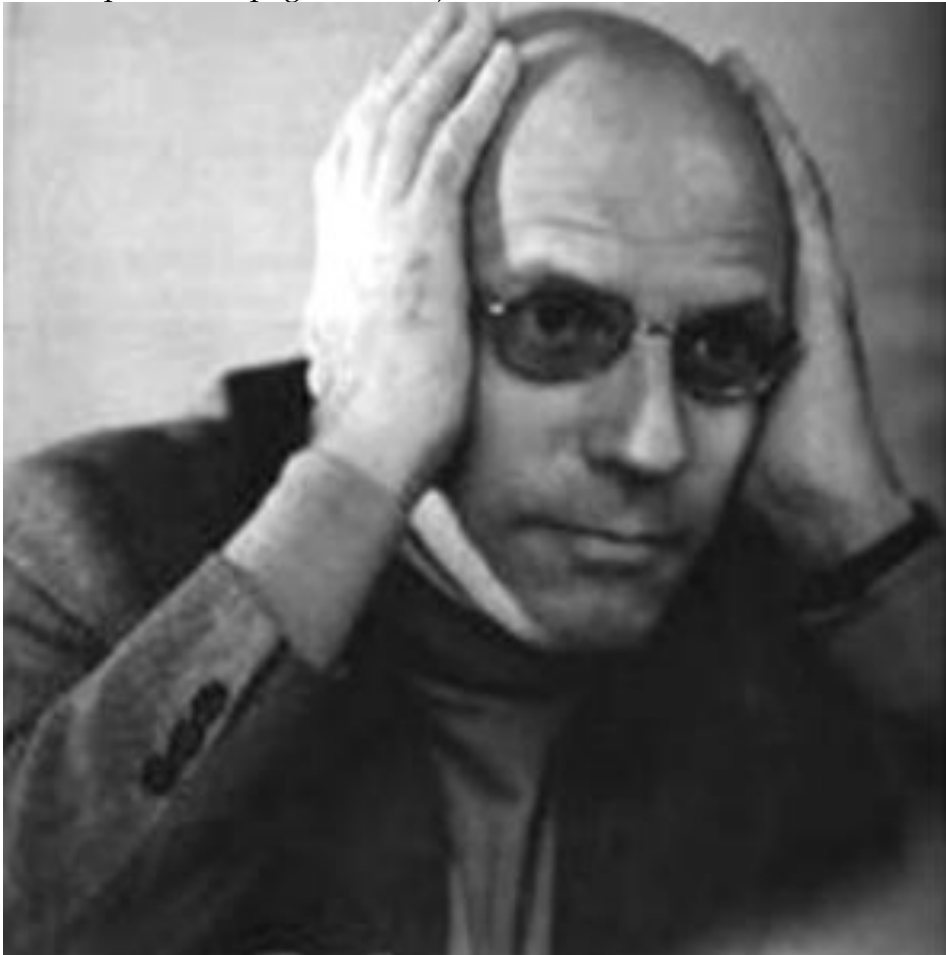
Instructor: Dr. Dilek Huseyinzadegan

Class Meeting Time and Place: Wednesdays 6-9, Michigan 112

Office: Così Café and Restaurant – 116 South Michigan Avenue

Office Hours: By appointment only; email me to make an appointment with 48 hours' notice.

Email: dhusey@saic.edu (Please be sure to follow professional etiquette in all communications in order to receive a response, see page 4 below.)



Course Description and Objectives:

This course aims to introduce you to contemporary theoretical perspectives coming out of Michel Foucault's critical genealogies of power, knowledge, and identity, as they inform visual studies. We start by reading important texts by Foucault on critique, power/knowledge, sexuality, and identity, and then move on to the contemporary feminist, critical race, and queer theorists that employ Foucauldian concepts and methods to analyze contemporary cultural and visual phenomena.

Overall, we will be exploring the ways in which all these theoretical perspectives help our analyses and interpretation of contemporary visual culture: in addition to learning about theories of power, knowledge, identity, and their historical development, you will gain specific visual and verbal skills for describing, analyzing, and critiquing (audio) visual imagery from a range of diverse theoretical standpoints.

READING AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

Our schedule, as anything else in the syllabus, is subject to change given circumstances that may arise in the course of the term. The following is intended to inform you of when your major assignments will be due and about how long we will spend on each reading/when each is due. Please check **your email and Google Docs** frequently in order to be updated on the progress of the class and what is due each week.

Week 1 Wednesday Feb 1 Foucault, "What is Critique?"

Week 2 Wednesday Feb 8 Foucault, "Nietzsche, Genealogy, History"

Week 3 Wednesday Feb 15 Foucault, "Docile Bodies" and "The Body of the Condemned"

Week 4 Wednesday Feb 22 Foucault, "Panopticism" and "The Eye of the Power"

FIRST PAPER DUE ONLINE BY SUNDAY 5PM FEB 26

Week 5 Wednesday Feb 29 Selections from Foucault, *The History of Sexuality*

Week 6 Wednesday March 7 McWhorter, "Race and Gender"

Week 7 Wednesday March 14 Catch up day

SECOND PAPER DUE ONLINE BY SUNDAY 5PM MARCH 18

Week 8 Wednesday March 21 Wilchins "Homosexuality: Foucault and The Politics of Self" and "Foucault and the Disciplinary Society"

Week 9 Wednesday March 28 Butler, "Critically Queer" (recommended: "What is Critique?")

Week 10 Wednesday April 4 Wilchins "Butler and The Problem of Identity"

Week 11 Wednesday April 11 Halberstam, Introduction to *Female Masculinity*

THIRD PAPER DUE ONLINE BY SUNDAY 5PM APRIL 15

Week 12 Wednesday April 18 Selections from Sullivan, *Critical Introduction to Queer Theory*

Week 13 Wednesday April 25 bell hooks, *Cultural Criticism and Transformation* and "Madonna"

Week 14 Wednesday May 2 - Critique Week - NO CLASS.

Final Paper Outlines are Due online by Sunday 5pm May 6.

Week 15 Wednesday May 9 Ke\$ha, Sasha, Gaga, Madonna: Final Discussion and Wrap-up

FINAL PAPER DUE ONLINE BY SUNDAY 5PM MAY 20