

Philosophy Study Group: Foucault

In our next cycle we will read foundational works by Michel Foucault in order to understand his philosophical project as well as his methodological advances in and beyond phenomenology, hermeneutics, historiography, and Nietzschean genealogy.

Texts

- *Language, Counter-Memory, Practice*
- *Maurice Blanchot: The Thought from Outside*
- *The History of Sexuality: Volume I: An Introduction.*

You can find PDFs of these three books at https://monoskop.org/Michel_Foucault. Supplemental works include Maurice Blanchot's *Michel Foucault as I Imagine Him* (published with Foucault's *Maurice Blanchot* book) and Leonard Lawlor's "Enveloped in a Nameless Voice," a chapter from his *Early Twentieth-Century Continental Philosophy* <https://iupress.org/9780253223722/early-twentieth-century-continental-philosophy/>.

Each month's readings will be, on average, 41 pages, ranging between 21 and 58 pages. There will be two sessions per month: a Friday US afternoon/Europe evening session and a Saturday US evening/Sunday Asia, Oceania, Australia morning or afternoon session. In general, we will meet over the first weekend of the first Saturday of each month, though there are exceptions. Each session will be 90 minutes over Zoom, in which we will discuss the text and its context as well as analyze its content.

Key terms: structuralism, poststructuralism, discourse, episteme, discipline, genealogy/archaeology, Marxism, political theory, biopower, sexuality, ethics, power/knowledge, madness

Recommended pre-reading: either David Macey's critical biography *Michel Foucault* (Critical Lives series by Reaktion Books) or Sara Mills' *Michel Foucault* (Routledge Critical Thinkers series), a true introductory text to Foucault's philosophical project

Reading/Meeting Schedule

March 3-5, 2023

The Limits of Language

Introduction" (11) and "A Preface to Transgression" (24) (from *Language, Counter-Memory, Practice* Part I)

March 31-April 2, 2023

“The Father’s ‘No’” (19) and “Fantasia of the Library” (23) (from *Language, Counter-Memory, Practice* Part I)

May 12-14, 2023

Foucault and Blanchot: Outside/Imagination

“Language to Infinity” (15) (from *Language, Counter-Memory, Practice* Part I)

“Enveloped in a Nameless Voice: Foucault’s ‘The Thought of the Outside’ (1966)” - Lawlor (29)
(from *Early Twentieth-Century Continental Philosophy*)

June 2-4, 2023

Maurice Blanchot: The Thought from Outside (58)

June 30-July 2, 2023

Michel Foucault as I Imagine Him - Blanchot (46)

August 4-6, 2023

Foucauldian Methodology

“What Is an Author” (26) and “Nietzsche, Genealogy, History” (26) (from *Language, Counter-Memory, Practice* Part II)

September 1-3, 2023

“Theatrum Philosophicum” (32) (from *Language, Counter-Memory, Practice* Part II)

October 6-8, 2023

Toward Power/Knowledge

“History of Systems of Thought” (6), “Intellectuals and Power” (13), and “Revolutionary Action: ‘Until Now’” (16) (from *Language, Counter-Memory, Practice* Part III)

November 3-5, 2023

The History of Sexuality: Volume I: An Introduction Parts One and Two (43)

December 1-3, 2023

The History of Sexuality: Volume I: An Introduction Part Three (21)

January 5-7, 2024

The History of Sexuality: Volume I: An Introduction Part Four (54)

February 2-4, 2024

The History of Sexuality: Volume I: An Introduction Part Five (25)