

PHIL 3595

Madness, Prison, and Sex: Foucault and Postmodern Philosophy

Instructor Information:

Karen deVries, Ph.D.

kdevries@uccs.edu

*I typically respond to emails on weekdays,
within 24 hours of receipt.*

Summer Online Office Hours

Tuesdays, 2:00-3:30pm

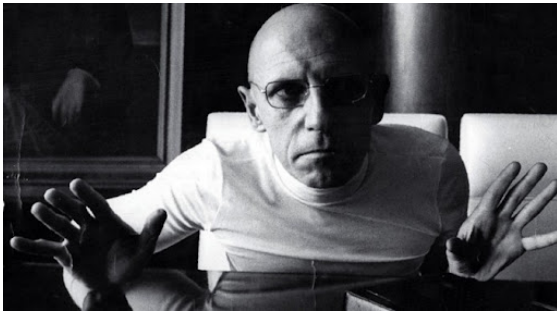
sign up for 1 or more 15-min time slots at

<https://calendly.com/kdevries-uccs/15-minute-meeting?>

Office Hours Meeting link:

<https://uccs-edu.zoom.us/j/94714872723>

*We can also arrange meetings at other times.
Email me.*



Course Description: This course examines the thought of Michel Foucault within the broader context of postmodern philosophy, focusing on his analyses of madness, punishment, and sexuality. We will explore how Foucault challenges traditional paradigms of knowledge, power, and subjectivity, and how these ideas relate to the production of institutions like prisons, asylums, and systems of sexual regulation. By engaging with Foucault's major texts—*Madness and Civilization*, *Discipline and Punish*, and *The History of Sexuality*—as well as key lectures on power, discourse, and technologies of the self, we will interrogate how these concepts intersect with contemporary debates on identity, control, and resistance. Lectures will help contextualize Foucault's theories and offer critical perspectives on his ideas.

Course Structure: This course will be delivered online in a remote asynchronous format through Canvas. The course operates on a weekly schedule and is structured into 4 units. Each week, I will send out an announcement explaining the week's materials which will consist of assigned readings and video lectures from me. Over the course of the semester, you must respond to 4 (instructor-facilitated) discussion questions. After each of the 4 units, there is an open-book, untimed quiz. If you keep up with the materials, read carefully, and listen to/watch the lectures closely, the quizzes are straightforward. Finally, you must submit 3 short papers (3-pages) and 1 final essay paper (6-8 pages). Due dates are noted on the course calendar in your syllabus.

PHIL 3595

Madness, Prison, and Sex: Foucault and Postmodern Philosophy

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

In this course, students will:

- Understand and critique Foucault's theories of power, knowledge, and subjectivity, particularly in relation to modern ideas of madness, penalty, and sexuality.
- Engage with key postmodern philosophical themes, such as the critique of Enlightenment reason, historical contingency, and the relationship between knowledge and power.
- Analyze Foucault's conception of the historical development of institutions, including the shift from sovereign power to disciplinary power and the emergence of biopolitics.
- Apply Foucault's ideas to contemporary debates on surveillance, medicalization, gender, sexuality, and state control.
- Critically assess Foucault's methodological approach, especially his use of archival research, genealogical analysis, and discourse theory.
- Develop advanced writing and research skills through essay assignments and discussions that require the synthesis and critical evaluation of complex philosophical texts.

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

This course is part of the Compass Curriculum. The Compass Curriculum is the signature undergraduate education program at UCCS for all majors and all colleges. This program endeavors to provide you with the tools for professional and personal success that you will need when you graduate. The program includes skills that employers want students to have from their education – critical thinking, oral and written communication, ethics, innovation, problem-solving, understanding inclusiveness, and sustainability.

This course meets the **UCCS Compass general education requirement for “Inclusiveness,”** which helps students learn about:

- The dynamics and systemic and historical aspects of inclusion and exclusion
- Ways that inclusivity (and exclusivity) are generated at local, national, and global levels

This course meets the **UCCS Compass Requirement for Explore: Arts, Cultures, and Humanities**, which helps students learn about:

- Specific methods of producing and discussing knowledge.
- Connections between this area of study and other disciplines.
- Thinking critically and creatively at the level required of a university student.
- Core ethical principles and responsible research methods of this discipline.

PHIL 3595

Madness, Prison, and Sex: Foucault and Postmodern Philosophy

REQUIRED TEXTS

Foucault, Michel. 1988. *Madness and Civilization: A History of Insanity in an Age of Reason*.

Foucault, Michel. 1979. *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*.

Foucault, Michel. 1990. *The History of Sexuality vol. 1 An Introduction*.

Foucault, Michel. 1990. *The History of Sexuality vol. 2 The Use of Pleasure*.

Foucault, Michel. 1988. *The History of Sexuality vol. 3 The Care of the Self*.

Additional readings available on Canvas.

Textbook Affordability and Accessibility Program (TAAP)

Required texts are available through TAAP (Textbook Affordability and Access Program). Log into your portal through uccs.textbookx.com, where you can review your personal value sheet (PVS) to see if TAAP benefits you. You have the option to “TAAP out” if the program does not fit your needs.

TAAP Materials Pick-up: Course materials can be picked up at the Campus Store unless you opted for a home delivery.

For more information:

- [Textbook Affordability and Access Program | UCCS](#)
- [University of Colorado Colorado Springs Online Bookstore \(textbookx.com\)](https://uccs.textbookx.com)

For help troubleshooting backordered items, TAAPing out, deadlines, returns, etc. Email: shop@uccs.edu

To access your e-textbooks in Canvas.

- On the left side of the course home page, locate and click on the **Vital Source Course Materials** link.
- You will need to access the content via Canvas using the **Chrome browser**. Safari does not yet work with this program’s content
- If you prefer to buy your own copy of the books, you will have until the *opt out* date (listed in the Vital Source content) to discontinue use and not incur the cost.
- For issues and inquiries regarding VitalSource eBooks & Day One Access you can reach a technical specialist 24/6/365 via chat, text, email, and phone <https://support.vitalsource.com/hc/en-us/requests/new> 1-855-200-4146.
- If you have any questions that the technical specialist is unable to answer, contact the bookstore at 719-255-3846.

PHIL 3595

Madness, Prison, and Sex: Foucault and Postmodern Philosophy

GRADES, LATE WORK, and ASSIGNMENTS

Late Work

For every 24-hour period that work is late, I will take 5 percentage points off. Late assignments will be accepted without deduction only on *sufficient prior* arrangement with me. Please get in touch with me as soon as practicably possible if you know that you might be late with an assignment. If you have not made arrangements because of the suddenness of the emergency, let me know as soon as possible. Be sure to include an authorized note from a professional who is familiar with your situation (e.g. a doctor).

Grading Scale

A	100-95
A-	94-90
B+	89-87
B	86-84
B-	83-80
C+	79-77
C	76-74
C-	73-70
D	60-69
F	60-0

For your final grade, I round up to the nearest tenth of a percent. If you finish with an 89.5, that is rounded up to an A-, but if you finish with an 89.499999999999, that is still a B+

Grade Breakdown

25% 4 Discussion Questions
25% 4 Quizzes
25% 3 Unit Papers
25% 1 Final Paper

ASSIGNMENTS

Five (5) Discussion Questions - 25%

On 5 different occasions over the course of the semester, you will submit a response to a discussion question. You will then reply to at least two of your posts. These discussions will include instructor moderation and participation.

Four (4) Quizzes - 25%

Using Canvas's quiz feature, you will take 4 quizzes (1 quiz for each of the 4 units) throughout the semester. Dates are noted on the course calendar in your syllabus. If you keep up with the materials by reading carefully and watch/listen to the lectures closely, the quizzes will be straightforward for you.

PHIL 3595

Madness, Prison, and Sex: Foucault and Postmodern Philosophy

Three (3) Unit Papers - 25%

At the end units 2, 3, and 4, you will write a 3-page paper (that's 3 papers, so a total of 9 pages) examining your understanding of key concepts from that unit. Each paper will have a specific prompt.

One (1) Final Paper - 25%

At the end of the semester, you will write a 6-8 page paper that critically engages with Foucauldian concepts. This paper is an analytical, argumentative essay that reflects your critical engagement with course materials – it does not require additional research. Be sure to use specific examples backed by precisely chosen textual evidence.

AI POLICY

Given that anything generated by AI has been culled from the web and restated or recreated without attribution (and sometimes even with false attribution), **AI content can be considered plagiarized.**

You are responsible for the information you submit based on an AI query (for instance, that it does not violate intellectual property laws, or contain misinformation or unethical content). To stay within university policies on academic honesty, your use of AI tools must be properly documented and cited, using quotation marks or other appropriate indicators of quoted material.

Acceptable uses of AI

The use of generative AI tools is permitted in this course for the following activities:

- Brainstorming and refining your ideas
- Drafting an outline to organize your thoughts
- Checking grammar and style

The use of generative AI tools is NOT permitted in this course for the following activities:

- Impersonating you in classroom contexts, such as by using the tool to compose discussion board replies or content that you put into a Teams or Zoom chat
- Completing group work that your group has assigned to you, unless it is mutually agreed upon that you may utilize the tool
- Writing a draft of a writing assignment
- Writing entire sentences, paragraphs, or papers to complete class assignments

PHIL 3595

Madness, Prison, and Sex: Foucault and Postmodern Philosophy

PLAGIARISM POLICY

Read the [UCCS LAS Plagiarism Policy](#)[Links to an external site.](#). Paraphrasing or quoting another's work without citing the source is a form of academic misconduct. Even inadvertent or unintentional misuse or appropriation of another's work (such as relying heavily on source material that is not expressly acknowledged) is considered plagiarism. All work for this course must be completed by the person submitting it for evaluation.

Anyone found guilty of plagiarism, cheating, forgery, falsification, or other forms of academic dishonesty will FAIL the course. If you have any questions about using and citing sources, you are expected to ask for clarification. **If you plagiarize, you fail. Seriously.** When in doubt, just ask me. I am here to help!

Informational Resources to Help You Avoid Plagiarism

[UCCS Physics Plagiarism User's Guide](#)

[Indiana University Plagiarism Tutorials and Tools](#)

RECORDING CLASSES PROHIBITION

Students are prohibited from making audio or video recording of any class activity conducted in person or online unless (1) I have given you explicit permission or (2) the student has provided the instructor with a Faculty Accommodation Letter from Disability Services. These letters must be presented to the instructor prior to any recording done and recording should be reserved for that individual's educational use only. Students who are permitted to record are prohibited from distributing recordings without consent. Distribution without consent will be forwarded to the Dean of Students for consideration under the student code of conduct. Recording class activity without consent is a violation of instructor and student right to privacy, copyright, and intellectual property.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Students are expected to have access to a working computer and the internet during the course. Minimal technical skills required include the ability to:

- use Canvas, UCCS's learning management system,
- use emails (and sometimes with attachments) to communicate with instructor,
- create and submit files in .doc, .docx, and .pdf formats
- copy and paste assignment questions, and
- download and install software.

SYLLABUS CHANGES

I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus as appropriate. Should this happen, I will inform you as soon as possible.

PHIL 3595

Madness, Prison, and Sex: Foucault and Postmodern Philosophy

COURSE CALENDAR

UNIT 1 INTRODUCTION to POSTMODERN PHILOSOPHY and MICHEL FOUCAULT

Week 1

June WATCH

9-14

Dr. deVries's lecture video: "Introduction to the Course"

Dr. deVries's lecture video: "Introduction to Postmodernism and Foucault"

READ

Introduction to Postmodernism (88pp)

"Postmodernism" entry – Intro and sections 2-3 in *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Canvas)

John Christman's "Radical Critique" from *Social and Political Philosophy: A Contemporary Introduction* (22pp) (Canvas)

required: Post-Modernism section of chapter (10pp)

recommended but not required: first part on Marxism (12pp)

David Harvey's *The Condition of Postmodernity*, ch. 2 & 3 (53pp) (Canvas)

Fredric Jameson's "Introduction" to *Postmodernism, Or, The Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism* (13pp) (Canvas)

Introduction to Foucault (46pp)

"I, Michel Foucault ..." from David Macy's *The Lives of Michelle Foucault* (12pp) (Canvas)

"What is Enlightenment?" from v.1 of *The Essential Works of Foucault: 1954-1984* (16pp) (Canvas)

"The Subject and Power" by Foucault (18pp) (Canvas)

ADDITIONAL ASSIGNMENTS

Submit your response to DQ #1, (introducing yourself), by end of day Wednesday, June 11.

Then respond to at least 2 of your classmates' posts by end of day Friday June 13th.

Submit your response to DQ #2 by end of day Saturday, June 14th.

Then respond to at least 2 of your classmates' posts by end of day Monday, June 16th.

PHIL 3595

Madness, Prison, and Sex: Foucault and Postmodern Philosophy

Quiz #1 will open by end of day Friday. It is due by end of day the following **Tuesday, June 17th**.

UNIT 2 MADNESS

Week 2

**June
15-21**

WATCH

Dr. deVries's lecture video: "*Madness & Civilization – Part 1*" (Canvas)

READ

"Practices and Discourse in Foucault's Early Writings" from *Michel Foucault: Beyond Structuralism & Hermeneutics* (12pp) (Canvas)
Chapters 1-5 from Michel Foucault's *Madness and Civilization: A History of Insanity in the Age of Reason* (approx. 160pp)

ADDITIONAL ASSIGNMENTS

Submit your response to DQ #3 by end of day Friday, June 20th.

Normally, DQ responses are due on Fridays. Since this is the first week of class, I've given you an extra day

Then respond to at least 2 of your classmates' posts by end of day Monday, June 23rd.

Week 3

**June
22-28**

WATCH

Dr. deVries's lecture video: "*Madness & Civilization – Part 2*" (Canvas)

READ

Chapters 6-10 + Conclusion from Michel Foucault's *Madness and Civilization: A History of Insanity in the Age of Reason* (approx. 130pp)

ADDITIONAL ASSIGNMENTS

Quiz #2 will open by end of day Thursday. It is **due by end of day the following Tuesday, July 1st**.

Submit your 3-page unit paper for the Madness Unit by end of day, Monday, June 30th.

PHIL 3595

Madness, Prison, and Sex: Foucault and Postmodern Philosophy

UNIT 3 PRISON

Week 4

June 29

-

July 5

WATCH

Dr. deVries's lecture video: "*Discipline & Punish* – Part 1" (Canvas)

Ava Duvernay's film: *13th* (1hr, 40min) (Canvas)

READ

Part 1 ("Torture"), Part 2 ("Punishment"), and the "Docile Bodies" section of Part 3 ("Discipline") in Michel Foucault's *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison* (approx. 160pp)

ADDITIONAL ASSIGNMENTS

Submit your response to DQ #4 by end of day Saturday, July 5th

You have an extra day this week because of the 4th of July holiday.

Then respond to at least 2 of your classmates' posts by end of day Monday, July 7th.

Week 5

July

6-12

WATCH

Dr. deVries's lecture video: "*Discipline & Punish* – Part 2" (Canvas)

READ

Remaining sections of Part 3 ("Discipline") and Part 4 ("Prison") in Michel Foucault's *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison* (approx. 140pp)
Interview w/ Michel Foucault, "Questions of Method" (16pp) (Canvas)

ADDITIONAL ASSIGNMENTS

Submit your 3-page unit paper for the Prison Unit by end of day, Monday, July 14th.

Quiz #3 will open by end of day Thursday. It is due by end of day the following Tuesday (July 15th)

PHIL 3595

Madness, Prison, and Sex: Foucault and Postmodern Philosophy

UNIT 4 SEX

Week 6

July
13-19

WATCH

Dr. deVries's lecture video: *"History of Sexuality – Part 1"* (Canvas)

READ

Michel Foucault's *History of Sexuality: An Introduction, Volume 1* (160pp)

ADDITIONAL ASSIGNMENTS

Submit your response to DQ #5 by end of day Friday, July 18th

Then respond to at least 2 of your classmates' posts by end of day Monday, July 21st

Week 7

July
20-26

WATCH

Dr. deVries's lecture video: *"History of Sexuality – Part 2"* (Canvas)

LISTEN TO

Foucault's 1983 Berkeley lecture, *"Culture of the Self"* (65min)

The Berkeley lecture *"Culture of the Self"* Audience Q&A (91min) (Canvas)

READ

"Introduction" and chapters 1-3 from Michel Foucault's *History of Sexuality, The Use of Pleasure, Volume 2* (32pp)

Part 1 (*"Dreaming of One's Pleasures"*) and Part 2 (*"The Cultivation of the Self"*) from Michel Foucault's *History of Sexuality, The Care of the Self, Volume 3* (68pp)

ADDITIONAL ASSIGNMENTS

Quiz #4 will open by end of day Thursday. **It is due by end of day the following Tuesday (July 29th)**

Submit your 3-page unit paper for the Sex Unit by end of day, Saturday, July 26th.

Week 8

FINALS

July 27

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August 2

Final essay paper due by end of day, Thursday, July 31st.

PHIL 3595

Madness, Prison, and Sex: Foucault and Postmodern Philosophy

ADDITIONAL UCCS POLICIES and RESOURCES

Academic Advising, Excel Multiliteracy Center, and Technology Help

[UCCS Academic advising](#) offers advising for degree programs and an opportunity to ask questions about all things regarding your academic career. See

The [Excel Multiliteracy Center](#) provides students with academic support, particularly for writing and oral presentations, both in-person and remotely.

For technology help, contact the [UCCS Help Desk](#), 719-255-3536

For Canvas issues, use the Help link at the bottom of the global navigation in the Canvas course (black nav bar at the far left of the window). You can also call the Canvas Support Hotline at 844-802-9230. Or access [Canvas's Support via Live Chat](#).

Accommodations Based on Religion or Creed

UCCS complies with federal regulations regarding requests for accommodation by students and employees for observation of their religion or creed. Students may contact the Office of the Dean of Students at dos@uccs.edu to discuss academic accommodation requests. Employees, including student employees, may contact the Office of Human Resources for workplace accommodation requests at hrhelp@uccs.edu.

If, due to religious obligations, you plan to request adjustments with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance in this class, please contact me as soon as possible. I will work with you and university counsel's office to ensure a reasonable accommodation is made.

Disabilities Services

If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to register with Disability Services and provide them with documentation of your disability. They will work with you to determine what accommodations are appropriate for your situation. To avoid any delay, you should contact Disability Services as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive, and disability accommodations cannot be provided until a Faculty Accommodation Letter has been given to me. Please contact [Disability Services](#) for more information about receiving accommodations at Main Hall room 324, 719-255-3354 or dservice@uccs.edu.

Mental Health & Wellbeing

Mental health challenges can interfere with academic performance. The source of symptoms might be related to your course work; if so, please speak with me. However, problems with other parts of your life can also contribute to decreased academic performance. If you are unsure if you need assistance, free online mental health screenings can be found [here](#).

PHIL 3595

Madness, Prison, and Sex: Foucault and Postmodern Philosophy

Mental Health & Wellbeing cont.

If you are experiencing a mental health emergency (*i.e.*, you do not feel physically safe), please immediately contact one of the resources listed below:

- Call UCCS Public Safety at 719-255-3111, call or text the National Suicide & Crisis Lifeline at 988, call 911, or go to the nearest emergency room.

Remember, we care about your wellbeing, so if you are struggling (even if this is *not* an emergency) please reach out for help.

For confidential mental health services and resources, visit the Wellness Center located inside the [Gallogly Recreation and Wellness Center](#). The first 3 visits are free! Phone: 719-255-4444. Hours: Monday–Friday, 8a.m.–5p.m. You can also contact Telus Health Student Support for free, confidential 24/7 mental health and wellbeing support through the Telus Health app or visit our free mental health and resilience digital platform.

Responsible Reporting: Institutional Equity / Title IX

The Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) administers the University of Colorado (CU) Sexual Misconduct, Intimate Partner Violence, and Stalking Policy (APS 5014), the CU Protected Class Nondiscrimination Policy (APS 5065), and the Conflict of Interest in Cases of Amorous Relationships Policy (APS 5015). All UCCS faculty and staff, including student employees, are considered “responsible employees” and *must* report any suspected or known conduct that may be in violation of these policies (“prohibited conduct”) directly to the OIE (mandatory reporting). Responsible employees must also provide the OIE’s contact information and information about how to file a report of prohibited conduct to anyone has disclosed alleged prohibited conduct. This includes reports made to the employee by others, regardless of the time or location of the alleged incident. This reporting requirement exists to support the safety of our campus community, and there is no statute of limitations. Prohibited conduct includes unwanted verbal or physical conduct that is sexual in nature, or based on a protected class (such as, sex, race, veteran status, disability, etc.). You may review the [Applicable Policies and OIE’s Resolution Procedures](#). While reporting prohibited conduct to the OIE is required by UCCS employees, participation in an OIE resolution process is voluntary. Confidential reporting, and access to medical and mental health services, are available to students through the UCCS Wellness Center at 719-255-4444. See [video training](#) on relevant topics.

Title IX Coordinator: Laura Emmot lemmot@uccs.edu 719-255-3725.

UCCS Procedures for Assisting Students and Employees who are Pregnant, Nursing, or with Pregnancy [Related Conditions](#). All employees to whom a student discloses pregnancy or pregnancy related conditions are required to provide the student with OIE’s contact information and share that the Title IX Coordinator can assure accommodations and resources. OIE can be contacted at (719) 255-4324 or equity@uccs.edu. [Procedures are posted here](#).

PHIL 3595

Madness, Prison, and Sex: Foucault and Postmodern Philosophy

Student Code of Conduct

UCCS expects all students to conduct themselves as honest, responsible and law-abiding members of the academic community and to respect the rights of other students, members of the faculty and staff and the public to use, enjoy and participate in the University programs and facilities. For additional information, see [UCCS's Student Conduct Code](#).

Student Educational Records

All records related to this course are confidential and will not be shared with anyone, including parents, without a signed, written release. If you wish to have information from your records shared with others, you must provide written request/authorization to the office/department. Before giving such authorization, you should understand the purpose of the release and to whom and for how long the information is authorized for release.

Veteran and Military Affairs

If you are a military student with the potential of being called to military service or training during the semester, you are encouraged to contact your UCCS course instructor no later than the first week of class to discuss the class attendance policy. Please see the [Veteran and Military Affairs](#) website for more information.