Contemporary French Philosophy (PHIL 3652)
Fordham University, Fall 2012

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Description: In this course we will study the work of four French philosophers, Jacques Rancière, Michèle Le Doeuff, Michel Foucault, and Jacques Derrida, investigating a number of issues including pedagogy, power, gender roles, violence, exclusion, and the status of women in philosophy.

Texts: There are two books to purchase, available at the Fordham University Bookstore:


All other readings are available on Blackboard.

Assessment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Response papers</td>
<td>2% each</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>2nd paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd paper</td>
<td>35%</td>
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Schedule:

Wk 1 Fri Aug 31 Introduction

Rancière

2 Tues Sept 4 *The Ignorant Schoolmaster*, Ch. 1 [do not read translator’s introduction]
   Fri 7 *The Ignorant Schoolmaster*, Ch. 2

3 Tues 11 *The Ignorant Schoolmaster*, Ch. 3
   Fri 14 *The Ignorant Schoolmaster*, Ch. 4

4 Tues 18 *The Ignorant Schoolmaster*, Ch. 5
   Fri 21 Ross, “Translator’s Introduction”, *The Ignorant Schoolmaster*
      Rancière, “On Ignorant Schoolmasters”

Le Doeuff

5 Tues 25 “Preface: The Shameful Face of Philosophy”
   Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason*, B294-B299

   Fri 28 “Red Ink in the Margin”, 57-79
      Descartes, *Discourse on Method*, Part 3
6 Tues Oct 2  “Red Ink in the Margin”, 79-99  
Descartes, *Principles of Philosophy*, Prefatory letter  
Fri 5  “Long Hair, Short Ideas”  
First paper due  

7 Tues 9  "Long Hair, Short Ideas"  
*Hipparchia’s Choice* pp.135-160  
Fri 12  *Hipparchia’s Choice* 166-172, 198-207  

**Foucault**  
8 Tues 16  *Discipline and Punish* Part 1 ch. 1, pp.3-31  
Fri 19  *Discipline and Punish* Part 1 ch. 2, pp.33-69  
9 Tues 23  *Discipline and Punish* Part 3 ch. 1, pp.135-169  
Fri 26  *Discipline and Punish* Part 3 ch. 2, pp.170-194  
10 Tues 30  *Discipline and Punish* Part 3 ch. 3, pp.195-228  
Fri Nov 2  *Discipline and Punish* Part 3 ch. 3, pp.195-228  

**Derrida**  
12 Tues 13  *Positions*, pp.41-43  
“Signature, Event, Context”, pp.309-321  
Fri 16  “Plato’s Pharmacy”, pp.63-64, 74-81, 86-105, 108-112  
Plato, *Phaedrus*, 274b-279c  
13 Tues 20  “Plato’s Pharmacy”, pp. 117-125, 134-139, 148-155, 159-169  
Fri 23  No class – Thanksgiving  
14 Tues 27  “Plato’s Pharmacy”, pp. 117-125, 134-139, 148-155, 159-169  
Fri 30  “Signature, Event, Context”, pp.321-330  
Excerpt from J.L. Austin, *How to do things with Words*  

**Foucault/Derrida**  
15 Tues Dec 4  Foucault, *History of Madness*, pp. xxvii-xxxvi, 44-47  
Descartes, *Meditations I*  
Derrida, “Cogito and the History of Madness”, pp.31-45  
Fri 7  Derrida, “Cogito and the History of Madness”, pp.45-63  
16 Tues 11  Foucault, “My Body, this Paper, this Fire…”  

Final paper due in exam week.