

Spring 2017

16:988:510 Technologies and Poetics of Gender and Sexuality

Th 2:15pm-5:15pm

RJC-011 C/D

Professor Ed Cohen

Michel Foucault's Lectures at the Collège de France

Between 1971 and his death in 1984, Michel Foucault occupied a chair in the History of the Systems of Thought at the College de France. In this role, he delivered 13 yearly courses that presented his ongoing research and revealed the relentlessly innovative movement of his style of thinking. Gilles Deleuze famously characterized Foucault's life by saying: "Only one thing mattered to Foucault: What does it mean to think?" Indeed, as Foucault himself remarked: "In what does [philosophical thought] consist if not in the endeavor to know how and to what extent it might be possible to think differently, instead of legitimating what is already known? ... The object [is] to learn to what extent the effort to think one's own history can free thought from what it silently thinks, and so to enable it to think differently." In this course we will read some of the translated volumes of Foucault's lectures (including: *Psychiatric Power*, *Abnormal*, "Society Must Be Defended," *Security, Territory, Population*, *Hermeneutics of the Subject*, *Government of the Self and Others*, and *The Courage of Truth*, as well as a number of other lectures, interviews, and shorter pieces) in order both to trace the development of Foucault's ideas and to explore his desire to "think differently" – especially insofar as living differently always entails thinking differently as well.