# Short Syllabus

## Course Title
Nietzsche and Foucault on Power and Subjectivation

## Lecturer
Tomer Sassonkin-Efron, PhD

## Contact details
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## Semester
Fall

## Short Description
The course will offer a critical introduction to some of the key tenets and central theses of 19th century German philosopher, Friedrich Nietzsche, and 20th century French philosopher, Michel Foucault. Focusing on Nietzsche’s seminal work, *On the Genealogy of Morality*, we will discuss the Nietzschean critique of “the value of values” and its attendant typology and genealogy of Master/Slave moralities and subjectivities. We will see how Nietzsche’s critical stance on ethics and subject-formation coheres with, and proceeds from, his critique of the western “will to truth” as well as his views on perspectivism, the death of God, nihilism, and the will to power. Focusing on Foucault’s later works, including *The History of Sexuality* and annual course lectures at the Collège de France, we will consider how Foucault extends and transforms the Nietzschean brand of genealogical critique. Reading Foucault’s historical analyses and conceptualizations of the modern mechanisms of power, such as discipline and biopower, we will discuss these mechanisms’ indissociability from knowledge and the production of truth, their deployment within a political rationality (“governmentality”) shot through with economic reason and a concern for the biological well-being of populations, and their productive effects on the constitution of modern subjectivities.

## Final grade components

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>Short paper (2-3 pages)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final requirement</td>
<td>Final paper (4-6 pages)</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>Active participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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## Attendance
Attendance is mandatory. Students are permitted a maximum of three absences without penalty. Any additional absences will affect the final grade and may result in failure of the course.

## Academic Conduct
Plagiarism is taken extremely seriously. Any instance of academic misconduct which includes: submitting someone else’s work as your own; failure to accurately cite sources; taking words from another source without using quotation marks; submission of work for which you have previously received credit; working in a group for individual assignments; using unauthorized materials in an
exam and sharing your work with other students, will result in failure of the assignment and will likely lead to further disciplinary measures.

**Additional requirements**

While in class, phones must be **turned off**.