

Philosophy 522-101: Social & Political Philosophy [14169]  
DePaul University  
Autumn 2012  
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Hours: Tuesday 10:00-12:30  
Wednesday 12:00-4:00  
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Description:

In this seminar we will examine selected work from three francophone thinkers – Frantz Fanon, Michel Foucault, and Édouard Glissant, who grapple with thinking what is conceptually impossible. All three thinkers raise and grapple with the following questions: who are we now, how are we living now, what are the conditions of possibility for our present existence and, importantly, how do they imagine possibilities of living differently from present they diagnose? Our readings will be guided by at least two problems. First, what is it that forces each to thought? How does each generate thought in and through their response to a fundamental encounter with that that forces them to think (e.g., chattel slavery, colonialism, confinement, sexuality, knowledge). What is the encounter that disrupts their ways of thinking and forces them to thought? How does each thinker think; how does he move through and negotiate the encounter? What is the efficacy of the strategy of *sociogeny* (Fanon), of *relation* (Glissant), of *problemization* (Foucault)? Second, what is the substance of their thinking differently? What does it mean to take one's life as the object of art; to leap into existence; or to engage in a politics of errancy? How does a diagnosis that refuses liberation or that articulates abjection provide an open onto to possibilities of living differently?

Readings:

Fanon, Frantz. *Black Skin White Masks*. Trans. Richard Philcox. New York: Grove Press, 2008 [1952].

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Wretched of the Earth*. Trans. Richard Philcox. New York: Grove Press, 2004 [1963].

Glissant, Édouard. *The Poetics of Relation*. Trans. Betsy Wing. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1997.

Foucault, Michel. *The History of Sexuality, Volume I: An Introduction*. Trans. Robert Hurley. New York: Vintage, 1978 [1976].

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Use of Pleasure, Volume 2 of The History of Sexuality*. Trans. Robert Hurley. New York: Vintage, 1985 [1984].

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Care of the Self, Volume 3 of The History of Sexuality*. Trans. Robert Hurley. New York: Vintage 1986 [1984].

**Presentations:**

Each student will give one presentation on a problem/question raised by in the text about which you will write. You should send me the presentation a couple of days prior to seminar (Saturday by six in the evening). I will read the draft and offer comments for revision or tweaking if I have any. I will send the presentation to the class on Sunday or Monday morning so that we have an opportunity to read the presentation prior to seminar. You should provide a summary of your presentation that should last fewer than ten minutes. You should offer one or two problems or questions for discussion.

**Final Paper:**

The quarter paper should be approximately 15-pages long, on any problem or question raised by the material we have discussed during the quarter. We should discuss your topic prior to starting your writing. The deadline for submission of the paper will be November 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Tentative Schedule:**

**Week I:**

Introduction &  
Fanon, *Black Skin White Masks*

**Week II:**

Fanon, *Black Skin*, con't

**Week III:**

Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth*

**Week IV:**

Foucault, *History of Sexuality I*

**Week V:**

Foucault, *History of Sexuality II*

**Week VI:**

Foucault, *History of Sexuality III*

**Week VII:**

Glissant, *Poetics of Relation*

**Week VIII:**

Glissant, *Poetics of Relation*

Week IX:  
Recap I

Week X:  
Recap II