

# THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO FOUCAULT

Second Edition

Each volume of this series of companions to major philosophers contains specially commissioned essays by an international team of scholars together with a substantial bibliography. One aim of the series is to make the work of a difficult and challenging thinker accessible to students and nonspecialists.

For Michel Foucault, philosophy was a way of questioning the allegedly necessary truths that underpin the practices and institutions of modern society. Unlike Kant, who tried to determine the a priori boundaries of human knowledge, Foucault aimed at revealing the historical contingency of ideas that present themselves as necessary, unsurpassable truths. He carried out this project in a series of deeply original and strikingly controversial studies on the origins of modern medical and social scientific disciplines. These studies have raised fundamental philosophical questions about the nature of human knowledge and its relation to power structures, and have become major topics of discussion throughout the humanities and social sciences.

The essays in this volume provide a systematic and comprehensive overview of Foucault's major themes and texts, from his early work on madness through his history of sexuality. Special attention is also paid to thinkers and movements, from Kant through current feminist theory, that are particularly important for understanding his work and its impact. This revised edition contains five new essays and revisions of many others. The extensive bibliography of primary and secondary sources has been updated.

Gary Gutting holds the Notre Dame Chair in Philosophy at the University of Notre Dame. He is the author, most recently, of Foucault: A Very Short Introduction and French Philosophy in the Twentieth Century, and is founder and editor of Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews.



#### CAMBRIDGE COMPANIONS TO PHILOSOPHY

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Edited by Gary Gutting *University of Notre Dame* 





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Philosophically; and Knowledge and Power: Toward a Political Philosophy of Science.

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JOEL WHITEBOOK, a practicing psychoanalyst in New York City, is on the faculty of the Columbia University Center for Psychoanalytic Training and Research. In addition to numerous articles on psychoanalysis, philosophy, and critical theory, he is the author of *Perversion and Utopia*. Dr. Whitebook is currently writing an intellectual biography of Freud for Cambridge University Press.



#### PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

"It is unlikely that any collection of academic essays could fulfill all the expectations stirred by the engaging term 'companion.' We think of a combined friend and cicerone, knowledgeable and charming, who leads us with easy clarity to an appreciation of the important features of a major site; in short, an informed and personable *guide vert* to a three-star French philosophical monument. Without pretending to the intimacy and charm our title might suggest, this set of essays does hope to provide an informed and reasonably accessible guide to most of Foucault's major works and themes."

This quotation from the first edition (1994) of The Cambridge Companion to Foucault still expresses the goals of our enterprise. In this new edition, readers will find most of the original essays, sometimes revised, as well as five entirely new pieces (those by Han, Sluga, May, Bruns, and Whitebook). The essays by Rouse, Bernauer and Mahon, Ingram, and Sawicki have been revised. Three essays from the original volume (by Norris, Rabinow, and Watson) have not been reprinted; in each case, the author agreed that there was need for an updated or more extensive treatment, but was not able to carry out a revision, so that a new treatment was commissioned. The first edition's translation of the encyclopedia entry "Foucault, Michel, 1926–," published by Foucault under the name "Maurice Florence," has been omitted because the piece is now available in James Faubion, ed., The Essential Works of Michel Foucault, Volume 2: Aesthetics: Method and Epistemology (New York: New Press, 1998). The bibliography has been supplemented by a list of books and articles on Foucault that have appeared since 1993.

A revised edition makes sense, first, because of the continuing influence, over twenty years after his death, of Foucault's work. There

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is now a new generation of scholars, from an extraordinary range of disciplines, interested in his writings. Further, the body of Foucault's work is itself being augmented and transformed by the publication of the thirteen years of lectures he gave at the Collège de France. In some cases, these newly published lectures are little more than repetitions of what appears in his books. But in many cases they add new perspectives or even present material that Foucault never published. This new volume allows us to take account of this new material where it is relevant.

The volume opens with my Introduction, which issues a warning (perhaps not endorsed by all of my fellow contributors) against general interpretations of Foucault's work and sketches a few of his specific achievements as a maker of histories, theories, and myths. Since almost all of Foucault's books are in one way or another histories, the next essay is Thomas Flynn's overview of the successive forms his historical project has taken, from archaeology to genealogy to problematization. The following five essays cover in turn Foucault's major writings from 1961 to his death in 1984. My piece approaches The History of Madness (1961) through an account of and reflection on its reception by professional historians. Next comes the first English translation (by Catherine Porter) of Georges Canguilhem's perceptive and influential review of Les mots et les choses (1966). Joseph Rouse provides an interpretation of the account of power, knowledge, and their essential relations that is at the heart of Foucault's book on the prison, *Discipline and Punish* (1975), and the first volume (1976) of his History of Sexuality. Arnold Davidson treats Foucault's work on Greek and Roman sexuality in the next two volumes of his history, The Use of Pleasure (1984) and The Care of the Self (1984). James Bernauer and Michael Mahon discuss the ethical viewpoint Foucault developed throughout the *History of Sexuality*.

The next seven essays place Foucault in relation to a variety of thinkers and movements that are particularly important for understanding his work and its impact. Béatrice Han, Hans Sluga, and David Ingram discuss Foucault in relation to German philosophy. Han treats his connection to Kant and the idealist tradition, Sluga discusses his strong ties to Nietzsche and Heidegger, and David Ingram develops a fruitful confrontation between Foucault and Jürgen Habermas. Todd May provides a general discussion of Foucault's complex relations to French and German phenomenology,



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whereas Joel Whitebook treats Foucault's equally complex relation to Freud and psychoanalysis. Gerald Bruns discusses Foucault's connections to literary modernism, and Jana Sawicki relates his work to recent feminist theory and to queer theory.

I want to express special appreciation for Terry Moore's work as editor on both the first and the second editions of this book. His efficiency, affability, and unfailing good sense made all the difference. Terry's untimely death has been a tremendous loss to academic publishing and to the discipline of philosophy.



## BIOGRAPHICAL CHRONOLOGY

1926	Born October 15 in Poitiers; named (after his father) Paul-Michel Foucault.
1936	Enrolls at Lycée Henri-IV in Poitiers.
1940	Enrolls at Collège St. Stanislas, a Jesuit secondary school.
1945	Studies in Paris at Lycée Henri-IV to prepare for entrance examination to École Normale Supérieure; taught philosophy by Jean Hyppolite.
1946	Admitted to École Normale Supérieure, where he receives the <i>licence de philosophie</i> (1948), the <i>licence de psychologie</i> (1949), and the <i>agrégation de philosophie</i> (1952).
1952	Employed in the Faculté des Lettres, Université de Lille; receives <i>Diplôme de psycho-pathologie</i> from the Institut de psychologie, Paris.
1955-1958	Teaches at University of Uppsala, Sweden.
1958	Serves as director of the French Center at the University of Warsaw.
1959	Serves as director of the French Institute in Hamburg, Germany.
1960	Teaches psychology at the Université de Clermont-Ferrand.
1961	Receives Doctorat ès lettres; thèse primaire published as <i>Histoire de la folie à l'âge classique</i> (Paris: Plon, 1961); thèse complémentaire: introduction to and translation (with notes) of Kant's <i>Anthropologie in pragmatischer Hinsicht</i> (translation and notes published Paris: Vrin, 1964).

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1962	Becomes professor of philosophy at Université de Clermont-Ferrand.
1966	Visiting professor in Tunisia at University of Tunis.
1967	Chosen professor at the Université de Paris at
	Nanterre, but returns to Tunisia when the
	Ministry of Education delays ratification of the choice.
1968	Serves as chairman of Philosophy Department at
	new experimental university at Vincennes.
1969	Elected to the Collège de France, choosing to
	designate his chair as in the "History of Systems of
	Thought." Gives inaugural lecture, "L'ordre de
	discours," December 2, 1970.
1970	Presents his first lectures in the United States and
	Japan.
1971	Helps found the Groupe d'information sur les prisons (GIP), an organization for scrutinizing and
	criticizing prison conditions in France.
1972	Makes another trip to the United States, including a visit to the New York State prison at Attica.
1973	Lectures in New York, Montreal, and Rio de Janeiro.
1975	Takes part in protests against Franco's executions of militants.
1976	Visits Brazil and California.
1978	Reports on the Iranian revolution for an Italian newspaper. Visits Japan.
1981	Active in protests against the Communist government of Poland and in support of Solidarity.
1983	Teaches at the University of California at Berkeley as part of an agreement to visit there every year.
1984	Dies in Paris, June 25.

This chronology is based on Daniel Defert, "Quelques repères chronologique," in J.-C. Hug, *Michel Foucault: Une Histoire de la Vérité* (Paris: Syros, 1985), 109–114; and James Bernauer, "Michel Foucault: A Biographical Chronology," in James Bernauer and David Rasmussan, eds., *The Final Foucault* (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 1988), 159–166. For further information on Foucault's life, see the



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biographies by Didier Eribon, *Michel Foucault*, trans. Betsy Wing (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1991), David Macey, *The Lives of Michel Foucault* (New York: Pantheon, 1994), and James Miller, *The Passion of Michel Foucault* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1993), and the "témoinages" collected in *Le débat* 41 (Sept.–Nov. 1986).