L&S 160E – 24 February 2010 – Wednesday Lecture

Will send out and post exact prompt → but for now think of your technology that you want

Requirement: one page (brief) one or two ideas about your topic and description of the direction you're going → due next week!

For this assignment, focus on mordern (might branch into post modern, but focus on Heidegger's idea of modern)

Easier to hone in on specific product/technology → specificity

Example of docks: time

Battleships

Fitness industry

Military aircrafts

Foucault reading back through 17th C pushing to 20th C.

Interesting relationship with Heidegger

Covering today: How these two models intersect

What Heidegger means by being is exactly what Foucault means by power.

For years, Foucault didn't admit he knew any Heidegger → then on deathbed gave interview → says he's Heidegger through and through (refer to excerpt on handout)

In interview said two friends in Berkeley said he was related to Foucault → Foucault found is amusing that France hadn't caught on

Secret until deathbed that he was Heideggerian because Heidegger was a Nazi and it was bad to be related to that during that time – wanted to get into college of France

In spite of their big difference, the structure is the same.

Foucault is more interested in details

Background clearing story: style of various epochs → all this different ways to talk about being

- Heidegger: being constantly transforming – growing "Being was constant overcoming"→ constantly transforming and making things more efficient. Incorporating more and more.

Nietzsche: says it's always changing as well

Example: technology of being fit grows and grows

Foucault: has a history of power. Its narrower than the history of being. There is also a history of the way the practices are organized, is what creates this space for various modes of being to show up. There have to be practices and those practices get a different style once in a while. Not only does being describe that, but power.

There are epochs (look at handout's equivalent terminology list)

Heart of Heidegger: being

Heart of Foucault: power

Foucault transforms Heidegger's idea on things into cells. F changes H's understanding of being.

Foucault analyzes several regimes of power cumulating in Biopower to help us understand ourselves as desiring subjects

Foucault doesn't have distinction between modern or post modern

Technicity on this list is the name used for H's technological understanding of being. Understanding everything as resources.

Monarchical understanding of being (top-down)

Talks about it as understanding power from above violently (story of regicide – beginning of history)

Example of 2 totally different regimes of power (see handout!)

Monarchical – king is highly visible, extravagant, lots of $

Opposite of this is disciplinary biopower (not sure if this is modern) this is discrete

Taking us over without us being aware it's happening – insidious, minute → it makes us think exams are perfectly normal procedure → invisible → micro-practice (little ways, little adjustments in barracks and schools and factories to get more and more productivity)

Biopower constantly colonizing and moving (cancer imagery) investing, taking over → most dangerous and unique outlook

BOTH think current understanding of being is colonizing and wiping out other understandings

If efficiency = wiping out running, people used to play with kids, now want to have some practical efficient thing, why waste time? More and more efficient!

 Problem: thinks he lumps it all into modern (sometimes calls classical, etc.)

Foucault:

Ancient regime: 1650-1789 (same as monarchical power) age of the monarch still – top-down, subject/object

Classical regime: 1789-early 20th C

Modern Regime: early 20th C. - ? – rise of modern

Epochs in Heidegger = regimes in Foucault – do they map?

Heidegger
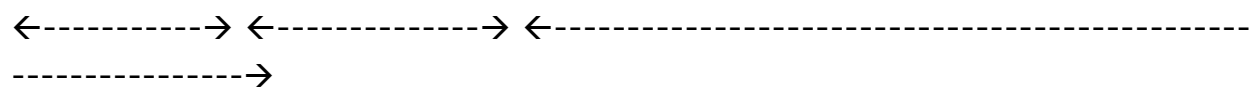
_____Modern_____/   Post-Modern

Greek   Christain   1650   1789   1900   1954

←---------→ ←--------------→ ←---

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Foucault   /Ancient Regime/Classical   /   Modern
(Biopower)

^Descartes ^Kant   ^Nietzche

From 1650-1900's – idea of the collapse of the last enlightenment project

By the time Nietzsche is writing, the question of rationality and everything will get better if we use our left minds collapses

1900's isn't necessarily a clear cut point – still elements of modern/classical today and Post Modern/Biopower growing more and more

1789 – for Foucault only when everyone is equal we get the ideal of institution of school – other social practices

Examples: exams – wasn't always exams – in old days someone was a violin apprentice until finally one day you were told you're good enough

Now today we have exams – break it down into components – step by step measures of these things – then we can make norms – see how far they should be in each component of the skill

Whole new way of teaching a skill – bad way – loose skill thing – relationship between master and apprentice – might miss way people are really learning, temporarily measuring them too (at this specific point be here in your progress, etc.)

Example: Santa Cruz – did away with exams instead get evaluations from professor

Examples: Crime and punishment

Ancient – public spectacle – drawing and quartering, justice was had and then done

Classical: idea of human rights – torture not acceptable – still have execution

Biopower: idea of Panoptical – new model of prison – opens up – cells on outside, guard tower – prisoners never know when they're being watched = "humane punishment"

Chance of being rehabilitated

Instead of torturing body, mind – prisoners start to police themselves

Example: military barracks: need for special arrangement – every body supposed to be in certain place – creates visibility to ensure everyone doing exactly what they're supposed to

Devaluing privacy in Panoptical – factory, school, shopping mall – same idea of observation being applied

Foucault: pg 162 – 163 – no longer about physical soldiers – about how to organize them

Discussion of what makes the ideal soldier – begin to condition ourselves to try and achieve ideal soldier

Desire created somewhere that you want to be fit – body image, fashion, advertising

Heidegger: interested in thing and then we become them

Foucault: interested in people

Biopower: how structured environment to affect people, not mentally changing – desire

Speed bump: literally can't = desire same thing as state, speed trap – afraid to get ticket – want to drive faster

Foucault's idea of "normal" – didn't come up until "Scieves of Man"
Execeptions to normal become part of structure that holds up normalcy
Foucault – pg. 155: Natural vs. Mechanical Body –
Pg. 154 – making people subjects