How Disciplined Was Foucault’s Research Process?

A Proposed Method of Research Based on Philosophical and Critical Models
OR
How the Humanities can Help Students Understand Research

Jordan Sly, University of Maryland, College Park// jsly@umd.edu// jordansly.com
Don’t worry, this talk is not really about this guy.
“...Philosophy is merely the attempt to answer such ultimate questions, not carelessly and dogmatically, as we do in ordinary life and even in the sciences, but critically, after exploring all that makes such questions puzzling, and after realizing all the vagueness and confusion that underlie our ordinary ideas.”

Bertrand Russell, *The Problems of Philosophy*
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Ontology
Cultural transmission
Epistemology
Death of the Author?
What is an Author?
Deconstruction
Post-Colonial
Subaltern
Invention of Tradition
Feminism
Orientalism
Structuralism
Materialism
Formalism
New-Formalism
Historicism
New-Historicism
A lot of -isms
“imagined communities”
Rigor in thought
“Research as Inquiry”
“Scholarship as Conversation”
Scholarship as Discourse
Aim: to give students the tools to ask better questions and to problematize set constructions in order to find more interesting avenues of research regardless of discipline.
The Critical Research Process

(2016) This project will investigate the effectiveness of teaching the ACRL Framework for Higher Education frames in the context of Critical Theory and as a variant model of the standard Research Cycle and of Kuhlthau’s information seeking processes (Kuhlthau, 1991).
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What it can look like:

• Active learning sessions based around discussion
• Encouraging students to dig into ideas
• Really focus on the lineage of ideas and the nature of knowledge
What it can look like:

- Feminist information literacy
- Adjusting one’s cultural lens to view topics (esp. seemingly binary ones) outside experience
- Identifying power structures within a research topic
- Investigating the assumptions and culture surrounding a topic
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Thank you

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