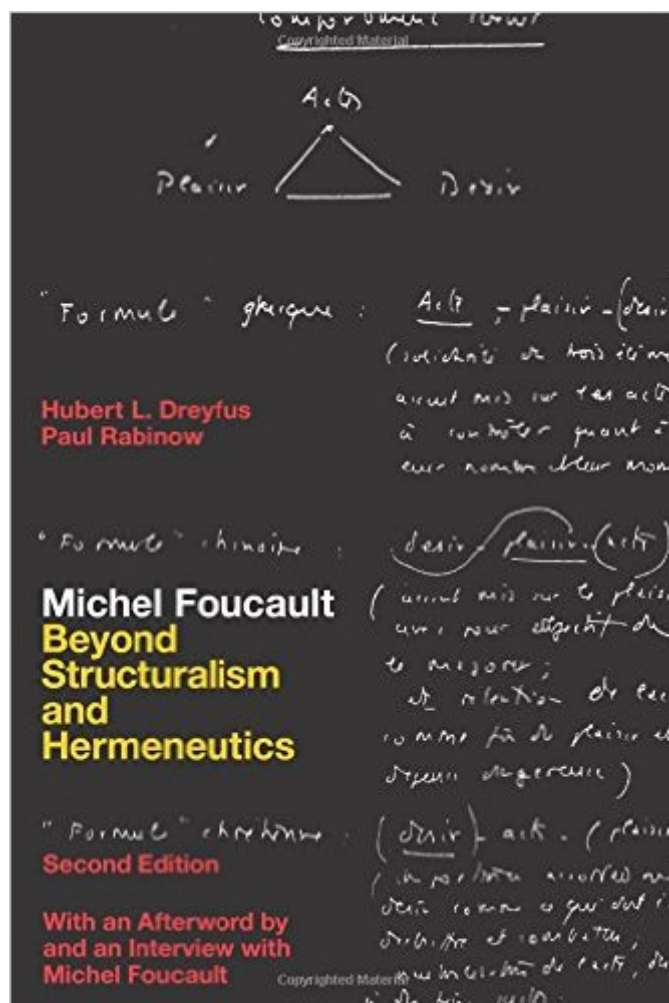


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Michel Foucault: Beyond Structuralism And Hermeneutics



Synopsis

This book, which Foucault himself has judged accurate, is the first to provide a sustained, coherent analysis of Foucault's work as a whole. To demonstrate the sense in which Foucault's work is beyond structuralism and hermeneutics, the authors unfold a careful, analytical exposition of his oeuvre. They argue that during the of Foucault's work became a sustained and largely successful effort to develop a new methodâ"interpretative analytics"âcapable fo explaining both the logic of structuralism's claim to be an objective science and the apparent validity of the hermeneutical counterclaim that the human sciences can proceed only by understanding the deepest meaning of the subject and his tradition. "There are many new secondary sources [on Foucault]. None surpass the book by Hubert Dreyfus and Paul Rabinow. . . . The American paperback edition contains Foucault's 'On the Genealogy of Ethics,' a lucid interview that is now our best source for seeing how he construed the whole project of the history of sexuality."âDavid Hoy, London Review of Books

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

First I should state my position, or lack thereof. I am not a scholar, not an academic, not a student of philosophy. I am just a person who has an interest and desire to understand more about life and the ways of knowing it. As such, I was apprehensive about venturing into Foucault - having only kindergarten knowledge of post-structuralism - fearing any book (whatever its claims) would either be a condescending simplification ("Beginners guide to -" , "- for dummies") or wall of esoteric semantics and impenetrable gibberish. But to my amazement this book couldn't have been more

useful or appropriate. The book managed to explain the overriding project of Foucault and as well explain in clear language what the problems and solutions Foucault offered (keep in mind my position as a stranger to Foucault, I cannot speak for the accuracy of the text, only whether or not it manages to explain the theories they posit). The true mark of genius is how the book know exactly when to move forward and when to stop and elaborate. Whenever I found myself confused, the text would somehow become aware of this and reiterate the problem in different terms. Moving at a comfortable pace through most of Foucault's key concepts, it seems to give a good foundation for further investigation. I'll repeat: It's neither a dummies guide nor a academic secret code. In fact, I'm hard pressed to place the book in a category. Instead I'll say that the book was a Godsend for someone like me wanting to know more about Foucault and finding the dummies-guide's too simplistic. (Though, perhaps, the beginners and dummies guide gave me a foundation more required that I am aware of.

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