As part of its Radical Philosophy lecture series, the VMU Department of Social and Political Theory is pleased to announce a two-day seminar with Dr. Andrew Knighton (California State University, Los Angeles): “Genealogies of Biopolitics”:

Biopolitics originally refers to philosopher Michel Foucault’s distinctive theorization of how states and other political powers have learned to regulate populations—i.e. to govern—in the global era. However, today biopolitics refers not merely to an historical phenomenon, but equally to an emerging academic field that explains a diverse range of phenomena, often categorized under the heading of concepts with the prefix bio- attached to them, such as: bioeconomics, biocapital, biotheology, bioethics, biohistory, biotechnology, and especially biopower. Whether original and unconventional or derivative and reactionary, the many shoots of academic research stemming from the conceptual seed of biopolitics share the same crucial trunk: an attempt to think the uniqueness of our contemporary moment through the shifting and thorny relations between “life” and “politics.” This seminar will read and discuss several texts often associated with the so-called biopolitical turn, in service of approaching the phenomenon and concept of biopolitics from a genealogical perspective.

The seminar will be held on Wednesday, February 11, 16:00 – 18:30, and Thursday, February 12, 16:00-18:30, in the Adamkus Library-Museum seminar room, Daukanto g. 25, 3rd floor. The language of the seminar is English.

The seminar is open to all. Those interested in receiving the texts to be discussed in the seminar should contact the organizer: Doc. Dr. J.D. Mininger (j.mininger@pmdf.vdu.lt).

Andrew Lyndon Knighton is the Joseph A. Bailey II, M.D., Endowed Chair of American Communities at California State University, Los Angeles. He teaches courses in theory, cultural studies, and American literature, with a focus on economic criticism. He has published on Herman Melville, Nathanael West, and Nathaniel Parker Willis; his book, Idle Threats: Men and the Limits of Productivity in Nineteenth-Century America, appeared on New York University Press in 2012.

Seminar Schedule:
**As well as in their originally published sources, all readings may be found in Biopolitics: a Reader, eds. Timothy Campbell and Adam Sitze (Duke University Press, 2013).

Feb. 11: **Biopolitics and the Legacy of Foucault**

Feb. 12: **Biopower and Bioproduction: A New Paradigm of Power?**