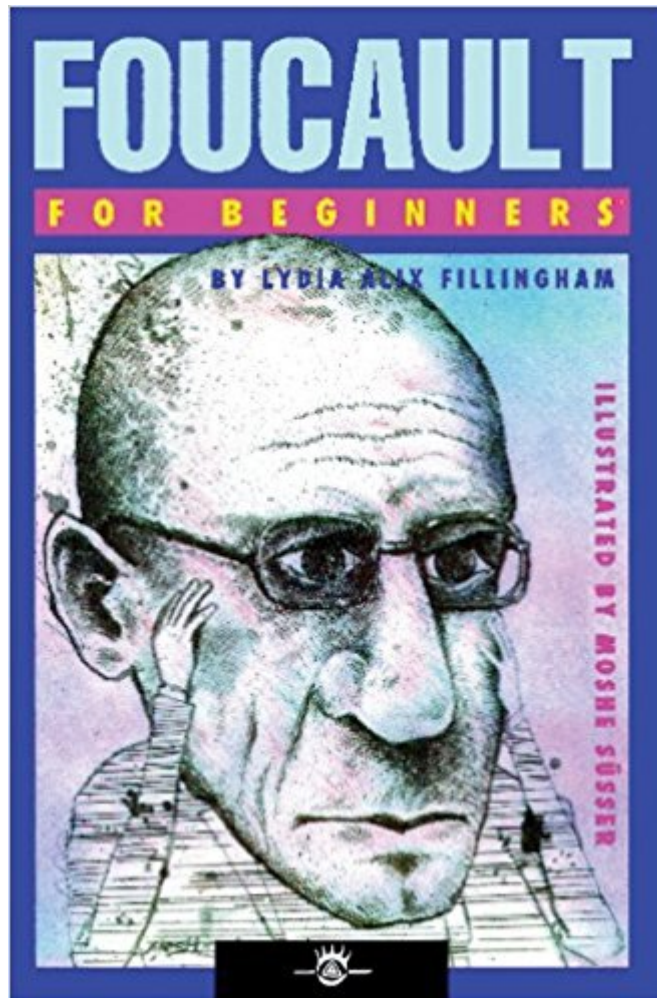




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Foucault For Beginners



Synopsis

Michel Foucault's work has profoundly affected the teaching of such diverse disciplines as literary criticism, criminology, and gender studies. Arguing that definitions of abnormal behavior are culturally constructed, Foucault explored the unfair division between those who meet and those who deviate from social norms. Foucault's deeply visual sense of scenes such as ritual public executions, lends itself well to Moshe Saffar's dramatic illustrations.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Lydia Alix Fillingham has taught literary theory, Victorian literature, and writing, at Stanford University, University of Colorado, and Harvard University. She is currently an independent author, and also an attorney. She lives with her husband and two cats in Concord, Massachusetts.

It's like a teenager-level book, nice illustrations but not as meaty as I had expected

Just what I was looking for. I needed to know enough about his theories to interpret some literature for a paper I was writing and also to determine if I wanted to know more about his work.

I found Foucault more understandable

This was an extremely superficial look at Foucault. It was more a top line summary of what Foucault's works focused on and who Foucault was as an individual.

WOW love this book. In addition to that, it got here in no time, was reasonably priced and in great condition!

Ok, let's get it straight right from the beginning of this review. Foucault for Beginners has no pretensions to be anything other than exactly what it is: a brief, illustrated, CliffsNotes-level synopsis of Michel Foucault's main ideas and works. As such, it works splendidly. What you get here is a typical 'For Beginners' graphic introduction to one of the more influential French intellectuals of the latter century. His main concepts and works are summarized neatly, and there is an extensive reading list provided for those who wish or need to explore Foucault and his ideas more extensively. That's it. Anyone looking for more depth from this book misunderstands the purpose of the 'For Beginners' series. For me, it was a great starting point for exploring Foucault's legacy without getting bogged down in needless extrapolation. Highly recommended if you need a quick and easy primer on Michel Foucault and/or his works and concepts.

Loved this! It really helps before jumping into Foucault to get a basic understanding of the concepts he deals with and what general themes are in his work. Jumping straight into one of his actual texts is too intimidating and less useful if you don't understand the rest of Foucault's theories, and this book is a great place to start. Poststructuralism for Beginners is another great start.

As a beginner, the book presents Foucault as a documenter - discussing and dissecting the history of power and professional relations. He covers knowledge and power, sexuality, prisons, mental health.... The span is enormous, highlighting Foucault's multidisciplinary reputation. The downside of the book (indeed a limit of the Manga-like series) is it spends too much time on Foucault's role as a chronicler of data, and leaves the reader on their own for much of his conclusions. An example: the book talks of Foucault's description of the medical clinic and doctor's "Gaze" but the book doesn't share if Foucault thought this was good or bad. Given Foucault's well deserved reputation as a complicated writer, this beginner could use the help.

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