

## International History

Academic year 2020-2021

### Totalitarianisms: Theories and Case Studies

#### HI131 - Printemps - 6 ECTS

Thursday 18h15 - 20h00

### Course Description

This course constitutes a historical and theoretical exploration of a variety of "fascisms." After reading a number of theoretical and typological pieces dedicated to dissecting what Robert Paxton called, "the Anatomy of Fascism," students will then choose a research project dedicated to fleshing out the historical contours of specific/ discrete case study of a particular Fascist regime.

#### > PROFESSOR

[Carolyn Biltoft](#)

[Office hours](#)

[Tuesday: 14:00-16:00](#)

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#### > ASSISTANT

Frank Afari

[Office hours](#)

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## Syllabus

### Assignments/Grading

- Weekly Reading Responses 10%
- Book Review 15%
- Course Design with Syllabus 15%
- Sample "Lecture" 10%

### Meetings

25/2 Intro:

#### 4/3 Totalitarianism vs. Fascism

- Umberto Eco, "Ur-Fascism" <https://www.nybooks.com/articles/1995/06/22/ur-fascism/>
- Claude Lefort, "The Concept of Totalitarianism" [https://www.dissentmagazine.org/wp-content/files\\_mf/1390336709d9LeFort.pdf](https://www.dissentmagazine.org/wp-content/files_mf/1390336709d9LeFort.pdf)
- Bring to class a "Bio Sheet" with your name, your picture, your program and your goals for the semester. Hand in to the TA

#### 11/3 Origin Stories Part I

- Fromm, Erich. *Escape from Freedom (Fear of Freedom in the UK)*. Avon Books, New York, 1969. (Selections, TBA)

### 18/3 Origin Stories Part II

- Arendt, Hannah. *The Origins of Totalitarianism*. Harvest Books, Harcourt Brace Janovitch, San Diego, New York and London, 1968. (Selections, TBA)

### 25/3 Authoritarian Personalities

- T. Adorno, *The Authoritarian Personality* (1950) chapter 1  
[http://www.ajcarchives.org/AJC\\_DATA/Files/AP4.pdf](http://www.ajcarchives.org/AJC_DATA/Files/AP4.pdf)
- David Bell, “Fascism or Caesarism? How Napoleon, not Hitler, Exemplifies an enduring Threat to Modern Democracies”<https://publicseminar.org/essays/fascism-or-caesarism/>
- Ian Kershaw, “‘Working Towards the Führer’: Reflections on the Nature of the Hitler Dictatorship,” *Contemporary European History* 2 (July 1993), pp. 103-118

### 1/4 Easter No Class

### 8/4 Mass Death/Mass Psychology

- Thomas Kühne, “Todesraum: War, Peace, and the Experience of Mass Death, 1914-1945,” in *Oxford Handbook of Modern German History*, pp. 527-547
- Wilhelm Reich, “the Mass Psychology of Fascism” <https://lorage.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Wilhelm-Reich-The-Mass-Psychology-of-Fascism-Farrar-Straus-Giroux-1980.pdf>

### 8/4 Surveillance Above and Below

- Robert Gellately “The Gestapo and German Society: Political Denunciation in the Gestapo Case Files” *The Journal of Modern History*, Dec., 1988, Vol. 60, No. 4 (Dec., 1988), pp. 654-694 <https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/1881013.pdf>
- Jan Gross, *Neighbors: the Destruction of the Jewish Community in Jedwabne, Poland* (Princeton University Press, 2012) selections
  - **Summary of your Topic and Bibliography Due**

### 15/4 Bending the Truths?

- Max Horkheimer and Theodor Adorno: “The Culture Industry: Enlightenment as Mass Deception.”  
[https://monoskop.org/images/9/99/Adorno\\_Theodor\\_Horkheimer\\_Max\\_1947\\_2002\\_The\\_Culture\\_Industry\\_Enlightenment\\_as\\_Mass\\_Deception.pdf](https://monoskop.org/images/9/99/Adorno_Theodor_Horkheimer_Max_1947_2002_The_Culture_Industry_Enlightenment_as_Mass_Deception.pdf)
- Federico Finchelstein, *A Brief History of Fascist Lies* (University of California Press, 2020) (Selections, TBA)
- Anton Shekhovtsov, “[Ghosts of Weimar](#): Is factual accuracy even the point when it comes to the discourse of antifascism?”

### 22/4 These Days...

- Natasha Lennard and James Miller, “[On Fascism, Non-fascism, and Antifa](#): Natasha Lennard in conversation with James Miller.” (October 15, 2020)
- Mischa Gabowitsch, “[Varieties of Antifascism](#): Russian notes towards a global debate.” (October 15, 2020)
- Jan-Werner Mueller, “[Far-Right Populism is Bad Enough](#): On fascism, populism, and democracy.” (October 15, 2020)
- Mitchel Abidor, “[Why Street Fighting Is No Way to Resist Fascism](#): The French left’s popular front strategy from the 1930s is a better way to resist the far right
- **All the above found here <https://publicseminar.substack.com/p/fascism-for-our-time>**

**29/ 4 Research Day**

**6/5 Lectures**

**13/5 Lectures**

**20/5 Lectures**

**27/5 Lectures**

**7/6 Lectures**

**\*\*12/6 Due: Sample Syllabus and Book Review**