PL SC 458 TOTALITARIANISM

Instructor: Brent Gilchrist
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Required Texts:
1. Hannah Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*
2. Lars Svendsen, *A Philosophy of Evil*
3. David Shipler, *The Rights of the People*
4. Leo Strauss, *On Tyranny*
5. George Steiner, *In Bluebeard’s Castle*
(other readings will be required and available electronically)

Requirements and basis of grading:
- Participation (including reading log/journal) 10%
- Written summaries/analyses (about 4 pgs.) 15% (best 3/4)
- Analytical Book Review (about 10 pgs.) 25%
- Midterm exam 25%
- Final exam 25%

100%

**Exams will be online/take home – see course blackboard for instructions**

EXCEPT FOR EXAMS, ELECTRONIC COPIES WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR THE PURPOSE OF MEETING DEADLINES BUT THEY WILL NOT BE GRADED – ONLY HARD COPIES SUBMITTED BY YOU WILL BE GRADED AND CREDITED TO YOUR FINAL GRADE FOR THE COURSE

Note: More details about each assignment will be given in class and posted on blackboard

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PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF LECTURES & READINGS
(schedule is subject to change according to the pace of class discussion – expect variations)

**EXAM DATES AND DUE DATES ARE FIXED AS STATED BELOW**

1. INTRODUCTORY AND THEORETICAL

1a  Introduction
1b  Rationalism in Politics (Oakeshott)*

2a  Bolshevik Attitude Toward Science (Bauer)*
    Totalitarianism and Rationality (Brzezinski)*
2b  “Isms” in Totalitarianism (Groth)*
    Towards a Comparative Politics on Movement Regimes (Tucker)*
3a Svendsen, *A Philosophy of Evil*: Foreword, Intro, pp.60-88

3b Svendsen, *A Philosophy of Evil*: pp.96-137

2. TOTALITARIANISM AND POPULATIONS

4a Dictatorships and Democracies (Hoover)*
   Background: Doctrine of Fascism (Mussolini)*
   Fascist State (Palmieri)*
   Philosophic Basis of Fascism (Gentile)*

4b Preface to Part One: Antisemitism (Arendt)
   Ch.1 Antisemitism as an Outrage to Common Sense (Arendt)
   Ch.3 The Jews and Society (Arendt)
   Background: National Socialism: Twenty-Five Points (Hitler)*
   Selected Speeches (Hitler)*
   People, The Fuhrer, and the Reich (Huber)*
   Racism: Nordic Europe (Rosenberg)*

5a & b *The Architecture of Doom*, film to be viewed in class
   Reflections on *The Architecture of Doom*

6a&b **first written summary/analysis due** (choose from 1-5)
   Steiner, *In Bluebeard’s Castle*

7a Ch.5.2 Power and the Bourgeoisie (Arendt)
   Ch.5.3 The Alliance Between Mob and Capital (Arendt)
   Ch.6 Race-Thinking Before Racism (Arendt)

7b Ch.8 Continental Imperialism: the Pan-Movements (Arendt)
   Ch.9 The Decline of the Nation-State and the End of the Rights of Man (Arendt)
   Ch.10 A Classless Society (Arendt)

**MIDTERM EXAM**

3. TOTALITARIANISM AND POWER

8a & b Psychological Structure of Fascism (Bataille)*
   *Triumph of the Will*, film to be viewed in class

9a **second written summary/analysis due** (choose from 6-8)
   Totalitarian State and the Claims of the Church (Tillich)*
   Ch.11 The Totalitarian Movement (Arendt)

9b Ch.12 Totalitarianism in Power (Arendt)
   Ch.13 Ideology and Terror: A Novel Form of Government (Arendt)
10a Gestapo and Social Cooperation: The Example of Political Denunciation (Gellately)*
Social Prophylaxis as a Form of Soviet Terror (Gliksman)*

10b Totalitarianism as Concept and Reality (Bracher)*
Red Fascism (Adler)*

11 Leo Strauss, *On Tyranny*

4. TOTALITARIANISM AND THE U.S.A.

12 third written summary/analysis due (choose from 9-11)
Totalitarianism Revisited (Gregor)*
Democracy in America (Tocqueville)*
Did Tocqueville Foresee Totalitarianism? (Malia)*
Tocqueville between two worlds (Wolin)*
Why War? (Wolin)*
Bureaucracy and America (Marini)*

13a Friday Instruction
13b Thanksgiving

14a Shipler, *The Rights of the People*
14b Shipler, *The Rights of the People*

15a Shipler, *The Rights of the People*
Dick, “Adjustment Team” (short story)*
Dick, “Minority Report” (short story)*

15b fourth written analysis/summary due (choose from 12-14)
A Politics of Natality (Schell)*

BOOK REVIEW: due Dec.8 before 5pm
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FINAL EXAM Due: Dec.16 Midnight

PLEASE SEE IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS FOLLOWING >>>
PLEASE NOTE:

Preventing Sexual Harassment

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination against any participant in an educational program or activity that receives federal funds. The act is intended to eliminate sex discrimination in education. Title IX covers discrimination in programs, admissions, activities, and student-to-student sexual harassment. BYU's policy against sexual harassment extends not only to employees of the University but to students as well. If you encounter unlawful sexual harassment or gender-based discrimination, please talk to your professor; contact the Equal Employment Office at 422-5895 or 367-5689 (24-hours); or contact the Honor Code Office at 422-2847.

Students with Disabilities

Brigham Young University is committed to providing a working and learning atmosphere that reasonably accommodates qualified persons with disabilities. If you have any disability that may impair your ability to complete this course successfully, please contact the University Accessibility Center (422-2767). Reasonable academic accommodations are reviewed for all students who have qualified documented disabilities. Services are coordinated with the student and instructor by the UAC. If you need assistance or if you feel you have been unlawfully discriminated against on the basis of disability, you may seek resolution through established grievance policy and procedures. You may contact the Equal Employment Office at 422-5895, D-282 ASB.