PL SC 458 TOTALITARIANISM

Instructor: Brent Gilchrist
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Office Hours: by appointment
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Required Texts:
1. Hannah Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*
2. Leo Strauss, *On Tyranny*
3. George Steiner, *In Bluebeard’s Castle*
4. Kenneth Minogue, *The Servile Mind*
(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.) 40% (best 4/5)
- Analytical Book Review (about 10 pgs.) 25%
- or of 2 Movies (about 10 pgs)
- or internet blogging/responding (about 2000 words)
- Final exam (take home) 25%

EXCEPT FOR THE EXAM, 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)

1. INTRODUCTORY AND THEORETICAL
1b Introduction; “Rationalism in Politics” (Oakeshott)*

1c “Bolshevik Attitude Toward Science” (Bauer)*
“Totalitarianism and Rationality” (Brzezinski)*

“‘Isms’ in Totalitarianism” (Groth)*
“Towards a Comparative Politics on Movement Regimes” (Tucker)*
2. TOTALITARIANISM AND POPULATIONS

2a Dictatorships and Democracies (Hoover)*  
Background: Doctrine of Fascism (Mussolini)*  
Fascist State (Palmieri)*  
Philosophic Basis of Fascism (Gentile)*  

2b 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)*  

2c The Architecture of Doom, film to be viewed in class  

3a first written summary/analysis due (choose from weeks 1-2)  
Steiner, In Bluebeard’s Castle  

3b Steiner, In Bluebeard’s Castle; ties with Nietzsche’s Genealogy of Morals  
“Psychological Structure of Fascism” (Bataille)*  

3c Triumph of the Will, film to be viewed and discussed in class  

3. TOTALITARIANISM AND POWER

4a “Totalitarian State and the Claims of the Church” (Tillich)*  
Ch.11 The Totalitarian Movement (Arendt)  
Ch.12 Totalitarianism in Power (Arendt)  
Ch.13 Ideology and Terror: A Novel Form of Government (Arendt)  

4b “Gestapo and Social Cooperation: The Example of Political Denunciation” (Gellately)*  
“Social Prophylaxis as a Form of Soviet Terror” (Gliksman)*  
“Totalitarianism as Concept and Reality” (Bracher)*  
“Red Fascism” (Adler)*  

4c Conspiracy, film to be viewed and discussed in class  

5a Holiday: no class  

5b&c second written summary/analysis due (choose from weeks 3-4)  
Leo Strauss, On Tyranny
4. TOTALITARIANISM AND THE U.S.A.

6a “Totalitarianism Revisited” (Gregor)*
   *Democracy in America* excerpts (Tocqueville)*

   “Did Tocqueville Foresee Totalitarianism?” (Malia)*
   “Bureaucracy and America” (Marini)*

6b *The End of America* (film to be viewed in class)

6c discussion of *End of America* and current affairs/contemporary politics

7a third written summary/analysis due (choose from 5-6)
   Minogue, *The Servile Mind* preface, Introduction, Ch.1

7b Minogue, *The Servile Mind* Chs.2–3

7c Minogue, *The Servile Mind* Chs.4-5

8a fourth written analysis/summary due (choose from weeks 7-8)
   Dick, “Adjustment Team” (short story)*
   Dick, “Minority Report” (short story)*
   “A Politics of Natality” (Schell)*

   optional: fifth written analysis/summary due June 20 (choose from any weeks)

BOOK/MOVIE REVIEW/BLOGGING: due June 20 before 5pm

TAKE HOME EXAM DUE THURSDAY JUNE 20
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.