

FASCISM AND AUTHORITARIANISM IN EASTERN EUROPE, 1918-1945

The course will introduce students to the ideologies and histories of the major fascist movements of the region during the interwar period and the Second World War. The course will also cover some of the authoritarian regimes which frequently appropriated the symbols and rhetoric of fascism while remaining essentially conservative (eg King Carol's dictatorship in Romania). The course will open with an exploration of the fascist 'debate' ie a study of the various definitions and causal theories of fascism which have been put forward in the post-war decades. The ideologies of Italian Fascism and German Nazism will also be briefly dealt with at the beginning of the course. During the course, students will be asked to consider the extent to which fascist movements in Eastern Europe were influenced by the Italian or German 'model' or were, in fact, home-grown or 'native'. We will then proceed to a study of the various fascist and authoritarian movements in interwar and war-time Austria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Yugoslavia. During the remainder of the course, students will be encouraged to consider various themes relating to the fascist and authoritarian movements of the period eg nationalism and revisionism; 'political religions'; corporatism and Catholic social theory; aryanism, racialism, anti-semitism; the Holocaust and collaboration with the Germans during the Second World War.

PRELIMINARY READING

R Griffin, *International Fascism: Theories, Causes and the New Consensus*, 1998
N O'Sullivan, *Fascism*, 1983
S Payne, *A History of Fascism, 1914-1945*, 1995
A Polonsky, *The Little Dictators: the History of Eastern Europe since 1918*, 1975

Title: Fascism and Authoritarianism in Eastern Europe, 1918-1945
Course Code: SEHI7002
Course-unit value: 0.5
Level: Advanced

Availability: 2009-10 Second Semester
Open to: All second and final year undergraduates
Prerequisites: All participants should normally have passed a full Intermediate Level course in History

Course leader: Rebecca Haynes, Rm 539, SSEES Taviton Street
Other participants:

Aims: To acquire a body of historical knowledge relating to fascist and authoritarian movements in Eastern Europe from 1918 to 1945. This knowledge will relate not only to the facts of history but also to broader concepts and explanatory tools.

Objectives: By the end of the course, you will have acquired:

1. Enhanced ability to understand and to appreciate how people have existed, acted and thought in the past in the context of the complexity and diversity of historical situations, events and intellectual outlooks.
2. Enhanced ability to use and evaluate texts and other source materials both critically and empathetically, as well as appreciating the limits and challenges of the extant record. The critical evaluation of texts should include an understanding of the questions which historians ask and why they do so. By the end of the course students will have read and mastered a wide selection of historical works drawn from the historiography on this period.
3. Enhanced ability to frame an argument in a sustained manner both orally and in writing. Arguments should be structured, coherent, relevant, and concise, and should take into account all aspects of a given problem.
4. Enhanced generic skills: these may be defined as –
 - (i) self-direction and self-discipline
 - (ii) independence of mind, and initiative
 - (iii) the ability to work with others and to have respect for the reasoned views of others
 - (iv) the ability to identify, gather, deploy and organize evidence, data and information; and familiarity with appropriate means of achieving this
 - (v) analytical ability and the capacity to consider and solve problems, including complex problems
 - (vi) structure, clarity and fluency of expression, both written and oral
 - (vii) intellectual maturity and integrity
 - (viii) empathy and imaginative insight
 - (ix) ability to organize time, work and personal resources to optimal effect.

Teaching & Learning Methods:

Number of Hours:

Classes

20 hours

Private Study
according to individual needs)

approximately 130 hours (although this will vary

Assessment:

Coursework: One essay of 2500 words, with full bibliography and footnotes, to be submitted according to a fixed deadline. The mark for the essay will count for 25% of the total mark for the course.

Examination: A two-hour written examination of eight questions, of which two must be answered. All questions carry equal weight and the aggregate mark counts for 75% of the total mark for this course.

AFFILIATE STUDENTS:

See regulations posted elsewhere.

100% fulfilment of coursework is required for the successful completion of this course. If this requirement is not met by the final departmental deadline, it will normally lead to you being debarred from the exam and the course unit being marked as incomplete on your final degree transcript.