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Office Hours: Tuesday 3-5 and by appointment

Course Description:

Over sixty years after the defeat of Nazi Germany, fascism remains a source of fascination for everyone from academic historians to History Channel devotees. In recent years, Americans of various political stripes have used fascism to refer to everything from “Islamofascists” to George W. Bush’s “war on terror” to plans for reforming the American health care system. In this seminar, we will seek to disentangle the historical experience of fascism in early twentieth century Europe from these later attributions. We will examine the ideology and practices of the fascist state as developed in Italy and Germany, focusing in particular on an examination of life under fascist regimes. We will then explore the policies of occupation and extermination practiced during the Second World War, including the creation of fascist regimes in occupied Europe. Finally, we will discuss the memory of fascism and neo-fascism.

This course is intended to introduce second year students to both the study of fascism specifically and the issues and methodologies involved in the study of European history more generally. As a small colloquium, the success of this class depends on your engaged and informed participation.

Prerequisites and Requirements:

There are no prerequisites for this class, although it will be helpful if you have a basic background in the major events and issues of European History. If you do not possess this background, let me know and I can suggest some outside readings.

Your grade in this class will be determined as follows:

35%    Participation & Attendance  
20%    Primary Source Critique (5pp.)  
20%    Monograph Review (5pp.)  
25%    Final Paper (5pp.)

All written work must be turned in to receive credit for this class.

All written work should be double-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font on paper with 1” margins. Papers must be stapled. Also, while your grade for any paper is primarily based on its content, errors in grammar or citation style can figure into the grade, especially if such errors are
egregious. The page limits for these papers should be taken as relatively strict. While I don’t want you to cut off a thought in mid-sentence to fit the limit, I will not read more than one page past the assignment limit (i.e. for a 5 page paper, I will not read past the 6th page).

ALL late papers will be downgraded 1/3 of a grade for every day that they are late. If you are late or do not attend class on the day a paper is due, that paper is automatically an additional one day late. If you turn in a paper draft late, the lateness penalty will be assigned to the final paper.

You will have a total of four “screw-ups” to use over the course of the semester. A “screw-up” can allow you to take a 24 hour extension for a paper (this applies to either the actual paper or, in the case of the first paper, the draft) or it can be used to take an unexcused absence from class. So, for example, you could take a 48 hour extension on a paper and miss two classes. If you wish for one or several “screw-ups” to apply to a late paper, please indicate that on the first page of the paper when you (finally) turn it in. Due to the sacrosanct nature of the Oberlin final project/final exam schedule, you cannot use screw-ups for the final paper.

All work for this class is governed by the honor code. You must write and sign the honor code pledge at the end of each paper.

Readings/Films:

The following required books are available for purchase at the Oberlin College Bookstore:


The following recommended book is also available for purchase at the Oberlin College Bookstore:


Readings marked with an * are available on blackboard under the “Library Readings” tab.
Schedule of Readings & Discussion Topics

February 3    Introduction: What is Fascism?

The Origins of Fascism

February 5    Nineteenth Century: Nationalism & Socialism

*Stefan Berger, *Germany* (London: Hodder Arnold, 2004), 77-110

February 10   World War I and the Birth of Fascism

February 12   The Great Depression and the Rise of Nazism

   Allen, *The Nazi Seizure of Power*, Part I (pp. 1-147)

Fascist Ideology & Society

February 17   Fascist Ideology and Aesthetics

*Carl Orff, *Carmina Burana* (1936)—recording
*Alessandro Pavolini from *Critica Fascista* (1926) in *A Primer of Italian Fascism*, 212-218
*Massimo Bontempelli (1926) in *A Primer of Italian Fascism*, 218-220

February 19   The Consolidation of the Fascist State


February 24   Fascist Society: Atomization, Consent & Control

   Allen, *Nazi Seizure of Power*, Part II (pp. 152-303)

February 26   Fascist Society: Atomization, Consent & Control, pt. 2

   Primary Source Critique DRAFT Due at the Start of Class

March 3       Meetings about Primary Source Critique (schedule to be posted)

March 5       Fascist Society: Ideologies of Youth and Gender
Film: *Hitlerjunge Quex* (1933)

March 10  
Fascist Society: Life Under Fascism
Silone, *Bread and Wine*

March 12  
Eugenics & the *Volkskörper* in Nazi Germany

*Detlev Peukert, “The Genesis of the "Final Solution" from the Spirit of Science,”* in *Nazism and German Society*, 274-299

March 17  
Anti-Semitism and the Jews in Nazi Germany

Film: *Jud Süß* (1940)

**Primary Source Critique** **FINAL Due At Start of Class.**

March 19  
Anti-Semitism and the Jews, pt. 2
Kaplan, *Between Dignity and Despair*, 9-72; 94-145

SPRING BREAK

March 31  
NO CLASS

Fascism During Wartime: Mobilization, Occupation and Extermination

April 2  
Fascism in Occupied Europe: France

**Monograph Critique DRAFT Due at the Start of Class (Optional)**

April 7  
Fascism in Occupied Europe: Poland


April 9  
Fascism in Occupied Europe: Czechoslovakia


April 14  
Fascism in Occupied Europe: The Balkans


April 16  Evaluating the Occupiers

*Adam Tooze Response to Aly:  
*Evans Review of Aly:  
http://historynewsnetwork.org/blog/33991

April 21  Operation Barbarossa

**Monograph Critique FINAL Due at the Start of Class**

April 23  The Holocaust—Perpetrators

*Christopher Browning, "One Day in Jozefow: Initiation to Mass Murder" in *Nazism and German Society, 1933-1945*, 300-315

April 28  The Holocaust—Victims

Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*

After Fascism

April 30  1945

Film: *Die Mörder sind unter Uns* (1946)

May 5  Coming to Terms With The Past


May 7  Final Discussion

**Final Paper Due, TBA, Via Blackboard**