

HUMANITIES 2589
Mussolini, Stalin, Hitler: Dictators and their Regimes

Fall 2017
Tues. and Thurs., 4:30–5:50pm
Rm 2465

INSTRUCTOR

Prof. Joshua DERMAN (hmderman@ust.hk)
Office: Academic Building, Room 3352
Office Hours: Wed. and Thurs., 3:00–4:30pm

TEACHING ASSISTANT

Raymond ROHNE
rrrohne@connect.ust.hk
Office Hours: TBA

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides undergraduate students with an overview of three political movements in twentieth-century European history: Italian Fascism, Stalinism, and National Socialism. We shall analyze the origins and developments of each of these movements, the personalities of the dictators who led them, and the experiences of ordinary individuals who lived through them. The course aims to sharpen students' ability to think comparatively about historical phenomena, and more specifically, about the nature of power in modern societies. It does not presuppose any previous background in European history.

ASSESSMENTS

2 quizzes: 20% (Sept. 21 & Nov. 9)

- Multiple-choice questions, map questions, identifications

Midterm examination: 35% (Oct. 12)

- Multiple-choice questions, map questions, identifications, essay questions
- Covers first half of the course

Final examination: 45% (TBA)

- Multiple-choice questions, map questions, identifications, essay questions
- Covers entire course

The quizzes and midterm will be conducted during regular class time.

ASSIGNED TEXTS

The course textbook is Ian Kershaw, *To Hell and Back: Europe, 1914–1949* (New York: Viking, 2015). Copies are available in the campus bookstore and on 2hr reserve in the library. All documents are available as PDFs on the course's Canvas website. Please ensure that you have completed the assigned readings in advance of lecture. You will be held responsible for all assigned readings on the quizzes and examinations.

EXPECTATIONS

- Students are expected to come to class having completed the readings assigned for that day.
- Please make sure that the ringer on your mobile phone is switched off for the duration of the class.
- If you are forced to miss a quiz or exam due to illness or other emergency, you must provide a doctor's note or equivalent; otherwise a make-up test cannot be arranged.
- There is no option of rescheduling a quiz or examination due to travel plans. Make-up assessments will only be granted in the event of illness or serious emergency.
- This course enforces a zero-tolerance policy on cheating. If a student is found to have cheated on a quiz or exam, he or she will receive an automatic F in the course, and the case will be referred to the university administration for further action.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1 / The First World War as Seminal Catastrophe

Tues., Sept. 5: Introduction and orientation

Thurs., Sept. 7: The shocks of war

Textbook: *To Hell and Back*, pp. 1–62 (skim)

Documents:

Ernst Jünger, "Fire" (1922)

Roberto Farinacci, "The War as the Midwife of a New Italian People" (1937)

V. I. Lenin, "The Symptoms of a Revolutionary Situation" (1915)

Week 2 / Revolutionary Russia

Tues., Sept. 12: Imperial Russia and the Bolsheviks

Thurs., Sept. 14: The revolutions of 1917

Textbook: *To Hell and Back*, pp. 62–83

Documents:

S. A. Smith, "The Revolutions of 1917–18"

Week 3 / War and Peace

Sept. 19: The Civil War and the Communist Party

Sept. 21: **Quiz** + The postwar settlement

Textbook: *To Hell and Back*, pp. 83–124 (skim pp. 124–34)

Documents:

Sheila Fitzpatrick, "The Civil War as a Formative Experience"

Margaret Macmillan, *Paris 1919*, chap. 30

Week 4 / The Origins of Fascism

Sept. 26: The Young Mussolini

Sept. 28: The *fasci di combattimento* and *squadristo*

Documents:

Stanley Payne, *A History of Fascism*, pp. 60–68, 80–94

Benito Mussolini, "The War as a Revolutionary Event" (1914)

Benito Mussolini, "Trenchocracy" (1917)

Platform of the Fasci di Combattimento (1919)

Week 5 / The Italian Dictatorship

Oct. 3: The March on Rome and the making of the Fascist state

Oct. 5: No class

Textbook: *To Hell and Back*, pp. 134–42

Documents:

Stanley Payne, *A History of Fascism*, pp. 94–123

Emil Ludwig, *Talks with Mussolini* (1932), pp. 65–76, 87–96, 149–64

Week 6 / Hitler and the Early Nazi Party

Oct. 10: Hitler in Vienna and Munich

Oct. 12: **Midterm examination**

Textbook: *To Hell and Back*, pp. 142–48

Documents:

Adolf Hitler, *Mein Kampf* (1925/26), pp. 131–44, 288–329, 659–64, 679–81

Week 7 / The Collapse and Fall of German Democracy

Oct. 17: The crises of the Weimar Republic

Oct. 19: The fall and rise of National Socialism

Textbook: *To Hell and Back*, pp. 149–60, 165–214

Documents:

Theodore Abel, *Why Hitler Came Into Power* (1938), pp. 1–9, 203–301

Dick Geary, “Who Voted For The Nazis?”

Week 8 / Stalin’s New Society

Oct. 24: The rise of Stalin

Oct. 26: Collectivization and industrialization

Textbook: *To Hell and Back*, pp. 160–65

Documents:

Hiroaki Kuromiya, *Stalin*, pp. 50–113

Joseph Stalin, “Industrialization of the Country” (1928)

John Scott, *Behind the Urals* (1942), pp. 3–6, 55–92

Week 9 / Fascism in Power

Oct. 31: Italy in the 1930s

Nov. 2: The racial state

Textbook: *To Hell and Back*, pp. 214–46, 260–65, 274–90

Documents:

Alexander De Grand, “Cracks in the Facade”

Detlev Peukert, *Inside Nazi Germany*, pp. 49–80, 86–125, 145–83, 197–242

Week 10 / The Collapse of the Postwar Order

Nov. 7: Revisionist powers

Nov. 9: **Quiz** + The Great Terror

Textbook: *To Hell and Back*, pp. 247–74, 290–94

Documents:

R. J. B. Bosworth, *Mussolini’s Italy*, pp. 367–88

Oleg Khlevnyuk, “The Objectives of the Great Terror, 1937–1938”

Week 11 / The Path to War

Nov. 14: The origins of the Second World War

Nov. 16: The destruction of nations

Textbook: *To Hell and Back*, pp. 247–60, 295–345

Documents:

Timothy Snyder, *Bloodlands*, chap. 4

Week 12 / The Axis at War

Nov. 21: Mussolini's War

Nov. 23: Operation Barbarossa

Textbook: *To Hell and Back*, pp. 346–407

Documents:

MacGregor Know, "Expansionist Zeal, Fighting Power, and Staying Power in the Italian and German Dictatorships"

Ian Kershaw, *Fateful Choices*, chap. 2

Week 13 / "The Final Solution"

Nov. 28: The Holocaust

Nov. 30: The defeat of the Axis

Documents:

Richard Overy, *The Dictators*, chap. 12

Victor Klemperer, "The Klemperer Diaries" (1933–1945)

Tadeusz Borowski, "This Way for the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen" (1948)

Timothy Snyder, "Hitler vs. Stalin: Who Killed More?"

Course Intended Learning Outcomes:

- 1 Narrate the history of Italian Fascism, National Socialism, and Stalinism; their domestic policies and foreign affairs; the origins and consequences of World War II; and the Holocaust.
- 2 Evaluate in which respects Italian Fascism, National Socialism, and Stalinism can be considered members of the same class of modern socio-political phenomena, as well as the ways in which they profoundly differed from one another.
- 3 Identify and list the aesthetic component of modern mass dictatorship as manifested in propaganda, film, architecture, and design.