COURSE DETAIL

THE HUMAN CONDITION AND THE TOTALITARIAN EXPERIENCE
Country Germany
Host Institution Free University of Berlin
Program(s) European Studies
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Psychology Political Science History
UCEAP Course Number 103
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title THE HUMAN CONDITION AND THE TOTALITARIAN EXPERIENCE
UCEAP Transcript Title TOTALITARIANISM
UCEAP Quarter Units 4.50
UCEAP Semester Units 3.00

Course Description

This course begins by covering the classical concept of the totalitarian state, as developed by Hannah Arendt and others, taking Hitler and Stalin as their models. Subsequent modifications and debates regarding the theory of totalitarianism, especially in the Soviet Empire, are discussed. The course questions what popular attitudes and psychological reactions exist towards totalitarian atrocities, such as the Holocaust, and under what psychological conditions are individuals capable of offering resistance. While these phenomena may now appear to be bygones of merely historical interest, the psychological aspects of “totalitarian situations” remain acutely important, even in present-day democratic societies. The massacre in My Lai, the obedience experiments carried out by Stanley Milgram, and other psychological studies provide shocking evidence of how easily average citizens are in danger of behaving inhumanely in social situations.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
FU-BEST 6

Host Institution Course Title
THE HUMAN CONDITION AND THE TOTALITARIAN EXPERIENCE

Host Institution Course Details
http://www.fu-berlin.de/en/sites/fubest/prog/courses/06_human_condition.html

Host Institution Campus
Free Univ. Berlin

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

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Course Last Reviewed
2021-2022

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