

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 Campus

Free Univ. Berlin

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

FU-BEST

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