PSCI 254

Fascism

Spring 2023
12:30-13:45 TR
Gavett 310

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PURPOSE

Fascism is a common term of political opprobrium, but few know what it actually means. This course examines the ideologies and practices of fascist movements to understand both the past and the present. Students learn about the economic, political, and cultural circumstances from which fascism emerged, and we consider the fascist obsession with national, sexual, and racial identity. Class time is divided between lecture and discussion; students are encouraged to participate.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Evaluation is based on three exams (25% each), and a 3000-word paper (25%). The exams are given as scheduled and are not given early—please make any travel plans accordingly. You must take all three exams to pass the course. The paper is due during the course's university-scheduled final period. This course follows the College credit hour policy for four-credit courses. This course meets twice weekly for 3 hours per week. The course also includes challenging independent reading for 1 hour per week.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Be familiar with the University's policies on academic integrity and disciplinary action. Violators of University regulations on academic integrity will be dealt with severely, which means that your grade will suffer, and I will forward your case to the Chair of the College Board on Academic Honesty.

Remember that the same technology that has made plagiarism easier to accomplish has also made it easier to detect. If you do not cite a source, it is plagiarism. If you do cite it, it is scholarship.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Find the readings online by clicking on the blue links.

1. **Introduction**

   January 12: Welcome

   - None (first day of class).

   January 17-January 19: Introduction and Questions

   - Lewis, "It Can't Happen Here," chapters 1-2.
   - Glasius, "What Authoritarianism Is. . .and Is Not."
   - Orwell, "What is Fascism?"
   - Palous, "Totalitarianism and Authoritarianism."
   - Schmitter and Karl, "What Democracy Is. . .and Is Not."

2. **History**

   January 24-January 26: Italy

   - Lewis, "It Can't Happen Here," chapters 3-4.
   - Acemoğlu, De Feo, De Luca, Russo, "Revisiting the rise of Italian fascism."
   - Brustein, ""The 'Red Menace' and the Rise of Italian Fascism."
   - Elazar, "Electoral democracy, revolutionary politics and political violence: the emergence of Fascism in Italy, 1920–21."
   - Elazar, "Class, State, and Counter-Revolution: The Fascist Seizure of Power in Italy, 1919-1922."
   - Russo, "World War I and the Rise of Fascism in Italy."

   January 31-February 2: Germany

   - Lewis, "It Can't Happen Here," chapters 5-6.
   - King, Rosen, Tanner, Wagner, "Ordinary Economic Voting Behavior in the Extraordinary Election of Adolf Hitler."
   - Koenig, "Loose Cannons – War Veterans and the Erosion of Democracy in Weimar Germany."
   - Koshar - "From Stammtisch to Party: Nazi Joiners and the Contradictions of Grass Roots Fascism in Weimar Germany."

- Satyanath, Voigtlaender, Voth, "Bowling for Fascism: Social Capital and the Rise of the Nazi Party."
- Spenkuch, Tillmann, "Elite Influence? Religion and the Electoral Success of the Nazis."
- Voigtländer and Voth, "Persecution Perpetuated: The Medieval Origins of Anti-Semitic Violence in Nazi Germany."

February 7-February 9: United States

- Lewis, "It Can't Happen Here," chapters 7-8.
- Amann, "A 'Dog in the Nighttime' Problem: American Fascism in the 1930s."
- Burtin, "Fascism Has an American History, Too."
- SPLC, "Ku Klux Klan: A History of Racism and Violence."
- Steigmann-Gall, "Star-spangled fascism: American interwar political extremism in comparative perspective."

February 14-February 16: Elsewhere

- Lewis, "It Can't Happen Here," chapters 9-10.
- Bromhead, Eichengreen, O'Rourke, "Political Extremism in the 1920s and 1930s: Do German Lessons Generalize?"
- Love, "'What's the Big Idea?': Oswald Mosley, the British Union of Fascists and Generic Fascism."
- Payne, "Spanish Fascism."
- Soucy, "French Fascism and the Croix de Feu: A Dissenting Interpretation."

February 21: Catch-up and review

- Lewis, "It Can't Happen Here," chapters 11-12.

February 23: Exam 1

- None.

3. **Politics**

February 28-March 2: Theoretical approaches

- Lewis, "It Can't Happen Here," chapters 13-14.
- Eley, "What is Fascism and Where does it Come From?"

- Paxton, "The Five Stages of Fascism."
- Vivarelli, "Interpretations of the Origins of Fascism."
- Wellhofer, " Democracy and Fascism: Class, Civil Society, and Rational Choice in Italy."

March 7-March 9: Spring break

- None.

March 14-March 16: Generic fascism

- Lewis, "It Can't Happen Here," chapters 15-16.
- Eco, "Ur-Fascism."
- Eatwell, "Towards a New Model of Generic Fasicism."
- Griffin, "Uniqueness and Family Resemblances in Generic Fascism"
- Levy, "Fascism, National Socialism and Conservatives in Europe, 1914-1945: Issues for Comparativists."
- Kallis, "The 'Regime-Model' of Fascism: A Typology."

March 21-March 23: Boundaries

- Lewis, "It Can't Happen Here," chapters 17-18.
- Allardyce, "What Fascism Is Not: Thoughts on the Deflation of a Concept."
- Berezin, "Fascism and Populism: Are They Useful Categories for Comparative Sociological Analysis?"
- Prowe, "'Classic' Fascism and the New Radical Right in Western Europe: Comparisons and Contrasts."
- Roberts, "How Not to Think about Fascism and Ideology, Intellectual Antecedents and Historical Meaning."

March 28: Future

- Lewis, "It Can't Happen Here," chapters 19-20.
- Berman, "Populism Is Not Fascism: But It Could Be a Harbinger."
- Copsey, "'Fascism... but with an open mind.' Reflections on the Contemporary Far Right in (Western) Europe."
- Johnson, " Ur-Fascism and Neo-Fascism."
- Rosenberg, "Democracy's Final Act?"

March 30: Exam

- None.

Culture

April 4-April 6:

- Lewis, "It Can't Happen Here," chapters 21-22.
- Sontag, "Fascinating Fascism."

April 11-April 13: Aesthetics

- Lewis, "It Can't Happen Here," chapters 22-23.
- Antliff, "Fascism, Modernism, and Modernity."
- Braun, "Expressionism as Fascist Aesthetic."
- Mosse, "Fascist Aesthetics and Society: Some Considerations."
- Ravetto, "Introduction," The Unmaking of Fascist Aesthetics.

April 18-April 20: TBA

- Lewis, "It Can't Happen Here," finish book.

April 25: Exam 3

- None.