

The University of Western Ontario

History 2145A: Totalitarianism

Fall 2011

Dr. A. Iarocci

Lectures: Wed, 7 – 9 pm, SSC 2028

Office: Lawson Hall 2250

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 1:30 – 3:00, 6:00 – 6:45

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Course Objectives

History 2145A is an introductory lecture course on totalitarianism in the twentieth century, with a comparative focus on National Socialist Germany and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The course explores definitions of *totalitarianism* as a historical term, and tests those definitions against a range of historical evidence. By the end of the term, students should be able to assess and compare the totalitarian character of Nazi Germany and the USSR from political, social, economic, cultural, and military perspectives.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- identify and compare scholarly definitions of totalitarianism
- measure the totalitarian character of National Socialist Germany and Soviet Russia
- identify important controversies and debates in the scholarship on these two regimes
- identify and explain the significance of key personalities, policies, and social, economic, and military developments in each regime

Lectures and Readings

Lectures will run for approximately two hours on Wednesday evenings. At the mid-point of each lecture we will pause for a brief donut/soda break. Films may be shown in conjunction with selected lectures.

Reading material for this course is drawn from three textbooks, each available in the UWO Bookstore. Students will find it helpful to look over weekly readings before class, and then return to them afterward for more careful study. In addition to the textbooks and lecture content, visual materials presented in lectures may also be used for examination purposes. I encourage students to ask questions at any time during the lectures, and to visit with me during office hours in order

to discuss course material in greater depth.

The required course texts are:

Peter Kenez, *A Short History of the Soviet Union from the Beginning to the End* (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1999/2006).

Ian Kershaw, *Hitler* (London: Longman, 1991).

Martin Kitchen, *The Third Reich: Charisma and Community* (Harlow: Pearson Education, 2008).

Examinations

There will be two examinations in this course. The mid-term examination (**40% of course grade**) will be written during normal class hours on 2 November. The final examination (**60% of course grade**) will be scheduled by the registrar during the December exam period. The final examination will be cumulative; in other words, it will address reading and lecture material from throughout the entire course.

On each of the examinations students will choose from a selection of essay and short-answer questions. The essay questions will test analytical skills, while the short-answers will test the ability to contextualize key persons, concepts, and events. Sample examination questions will be provided before each exam.

For all medical and non-medical issues that might warrant accommodation with regard to examinations or lecture attendance, please report to academic counseling.

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following link:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Lecture Topics and Weekly Readings

14 September Week 1	Course Introduction; Searching for Definitions	Kenez, 1-13 Kitchen, 1-30
21 September Week 2	The First World War; The Leninist Revolution	Kenez, 14-79
28 September Week 3	Weimar Germany and the Rise of the National Socialism, 1918-33	Kershaw, 1-61 Kitchen, 31-59
5 October Week 4	The Stalin Regime, 1928-41	Kenez, 80-131
12 October Week 5	The Hitler State, 1933-39	Kershaw, 62-132 Kitchen, 122-218
19 October Week 6	Germany at War, 1939-45	Kershaw, 133-197 Kitchen, 207-303, 332-372
26 October Week 7	The Great Patriotic War, 1941-45	Kenez, 132-159
2 November Week 8	Mid-term Examination	Written in SSC 2028 during class hours
9 November Week 9	Holocaust	Kitchen, 219-271, 304-322
16 November Week 10	World War to Cold War	Kenez, 160-242
23 November Week 11	Brezhnev to Gorbachev	Kenez, 243-277
30 November Week 12	Remembering Nazi Germany and the USSR	Kenez, 278-283
7 December Week 13	No lecture scheduled – reserved as a slip day or for examination review	

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

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FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

PLAGIARISM

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of Publication and page number. Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. In adopting other writer's ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source; these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction, your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases, in their suspension from the University.

MEDICAL ACCOMMODATION

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Please go to https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_accommodations_link_for_OOR.pdf to read about the University's policy on medical accommodation. Please go to <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medicalform.pdf> to download the necessary form. In the event of illness, you should contact Academic Counselling as soon as possible. The Academic Counsellors will determine, in consultation with the student, whether or not accommodation is warranted. They will subsequently contact the instructors in the relevant courses about the accommodation. Once a decision has been made about accommodation, the student should contact his/her instructors to determine a new due date for term tests, assignments, and exams.

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact, Rebecca Dashford, Undergraduate Program Advisor, Department of History, 519-661-2111 x84962 or rdashfo@uwo.ca