



College of Europe
Collège d'Europe



Natolin

ECTS CARD

STUDY PROGRAMME

European Interdisciplinary Studies, Natolin campus (Advanced Academic Master)

YEAR

2023-2024

COURSE TITLE

Totalitarian Ideologies and Dictatorships in Twentieth-Century Europe

SEMESTER

2

COURSE PROFESSOR(S)

MOORHOUSE Roger

ACADEMIC ASSISTANT(S)

BOURGOIS Kilian

COURSE TYPE

Core Course

MAJOR(S)

EPAP, EUW, EUN, EHC

ECTS CREDITS

4

TEACHING HOURS

20

INDIVIDUAL & GROUP STUDY TIME

80

TUTORIAL(S)

NO

COEFFICIENT

1

LANGUAGE(S)

EN

COURSE OBJECTIVE

- Students will have an appreciation of the intellectual and historical circumstances that feed totalitarian political models;
- Students will understand how the main totalitarian regimes sustained themselves in power;
- Students will understand the similarities and differences among the main totalitarian regimes of the twentieth century;

Students will understand the historiographical arguments surrounding the question of totalitarianism

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

A2: Students acquire a sound understanding of the history of the European construction within the longer context of the history of European Civilization, including Central and Eastern Europe, and its wider neighbourhood and global contexts. They are able critically to analyse and evaluate the changing idea of Europe, the changing aims of the European construction and changing social, political and economic realities in Europe and in the world.

B4: Students develop the ability to construct, present and defend a case clearly and coherently in writing as well as

before their peers orally, and constructively to question and critique the cases made by others.

EHC1: Students master a significant body of historical literature on broad topics in European and global history, including Central and Eastern European History.

EHC2: Students develop the ability to construct historical arguments in a variety of literary forms and to tackle questions of general historical significance, ranging widely across time and space, formulating appropriate questions and exemplifying their syntheses with detailed evidence.

EHC3: Students develop the ability to design, research and present a sustained and independently conceived piece

of historical writing in European and/or global history.

EHC4: Students develop the ability to gather and sift relevant primary and secondary sources relating to specific historical problems, to assess sceptically the reliability of the evidence and the plausibility of different historiographical narratives relating to these problems, and to arrive at their own reasoned interpretations of them.

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION

None – though a knowledge of the basics of modern European history would be beneficial.

TEACHING METHOD(S)

Lectures and seminars with group discussion.

ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

- Short in-class presentations (20%).
- 2-hour closed-book, written, digital, in-class exam accounting for 80% of the final mark.

The College of Europe reserves the right to change the delivery and assessment of the course in case of circumstances beyond the reasonable control of the College (force majeure). Any communication from the campus administration in this regard takes precedence over the information provided in this ECTS card.

Retake examinations, i.e., exams passed in the second examination session, will have the same format as those taken during the first exam session. The only exception concerns oral exams, which are replaced in the second exam session by written exams. When a student takes an examination during the second session, the final mark for the course is based solely on the result of the retake examination. No other element of evaluation which would have been taken into consideration in the calculation of the final mark during the first examination session will be considered in the second session.

COURSE CONTENTS

This course will explore the ideological origins of totalitarianism and examine its development in its primary exponents – Fascist Italy, Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union. It will analyze the main pillars upon which the totalitarian state rested: propaganda, the primacy of "the Party", the use of terror, the harnessed economy and the importance of the charismatic 'leader' – as well as its limitations. Additional themes will include the importance of positive appeals and the various responses evidenced. Comparative perspectives will be encouraged.

COURSE MATERIALS (readings and other learning resources/tools)

Visual presentations (PowerPoint); articles and chapters provided on the intranet; books available from the Natolin Library.