

**Carleton University
College of the Humanities
Humanities Program
HUMS 4104 Modern Intellectual History Fall 2010**

Dr. Geoffrey C. Kellow
Office: Paterson 2A59 Telephone: 520-2600 xt. 2473
Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 2:30-4pm
geoffrey_kellow@carleton.ca

The Idea and the Abyss: Totalitarianism and Terror in the Twentieth Century

This course treats the emergence of totalitarian regimes in the twentieth century with a focus on both their intellectual provenance and concrete consequences. The course considers in particular Soviet Communism and National Socialism. In each case, the seminar will begin with an examination of the theoretical underpinnings and intellectual advocacy of totalitarian politics and then address the historical and human consequences of the ideas and arguments in question. In the consideration of both National Socialism and Soviet Communism, the seminar will then examine literary and philosophic efforts to come to terms with the terrible legacies of Fascism and Communism in the Twentieth Century.

September 13th Introduction

September 20th
Friedrich Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morality*

September 27th
Martin Heidegger, *On The Self-Assertion of the German University*, Rector's Address, 1933
Karl Lowith excerpt from *My Life Before and After 1933* (Common Room)

October 4th
Carl Schmitt, *The Concept of the Political*
Leo Strauss, "German Nihilism" 1941/1999 (Common Room)

Suggested Reading : Heinrich Meier, *The Lesson of Carl Schmitt*

October 18th
Schmitt and Strauss continued.
Heinrich Himmler to SS Leaders on homosexuality, 18th February 1937
Josef Goebbels on Jews in *Das Reich* 16th, November 1941
Himmler Speech to SS at Posen, October 4th, 1943

Suggested Reading: Saul Friedlander, "Redemptive Anti-Semitism" *from* Nazi Germany and the Jews: Years of Persecution 1933-39.

October 25th Review Essays Due
Gitta Sereny, *Into that Darkness*

Gitta Sereny, "The Great Lie" from *Albert Speer: His Battle With Truth*. (Common Room)

Martin Heidegger, *Der Spiegel* Interview. (Common Room)

Suggested Reading: Hannah Arendt, "The Aftermath of Nazi Rule: Report from Germany" from *Essays in Understanding*, 1930-1954

November 1st

Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*

November 8th

Karl Marx The 18th Brumaire of Louis Napoleon (Common Room)

Lenin, "Experience of the Paris Commune of 1871: Marx's Analysis" from *State and Revolution* (Common Room)

November 15th

Leon Trotsky, *Communism & Terrorism*

November 22

Lydia Chukovskaya, *Sofia Petrovna*

Viktor Kravchenko, "Horror in the Village" from *I Chose Freedom*

Suggested Reading: John V. Fleming, *The Anti-Communist Manifestos: Four Books that Shaped the Cold War*.

November 29th

Solzhenitsyn, *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*

Margarete Buber-Neumann, "The Damned of the Earth" from *Under Two Dictators*

December 6th

Term Papers Due & Take Home Distributed

Whitaker Chambers, "Letter To My Children" from *Witness*

Albert Camus, "Thought at the Meridian" from *The Rebel*

Suggested Reading: Sam Tanenhaus, *Whittaker Chambers*

Raymond Aron, "Solzhenitsyn and European Leftism" in *The Dawn of Universal History*.

Friday December 10th at 2:00pm Take Home Exam Due in Patterson 2A59

Required Texts

1. Gitta Sereny, *Into that Darkness*, Vintage, 0394710355
2. Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*, Simon & Schuster, 0684826801
3. Leon Trotsky, *Terrorism and Communism*, Verso Press, 184467178X

4. Lydia Chukovskaya, *Sofia Petrovna*, Northwestern U.P. 0810111500
5. Aleksander Solzhenitsyn, *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*, Bantam Classics, 0553247778
6. Carl Schmitt, *The Concept of the Political*, University of Chicago Press, 0226738922
7. Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Genealogy of Morality*, Hackett Publishing, 0-87220-283-6

The required texts may be purchased at All Books on Rideau Street (Next to the ByTown Cinema).

Course Requirements

1. Review Essay 25%
2. Class Participation 10%
3. Term Paper 35%
4. Take Home Exam 30%

Late Policy for Review Essay and Term Paper

Both the review essay and the term paper are due in lecture on the due date. Papers will be counted as late from the beginning of lecture. The late penalty is **five percent per day**.

Class Participation

Students are expected to attend class having completed the readings and prepared to discuss the material.

Term Paper

Term papers should address a topic covered in the course from the perspective of the history of ideas. To that end, the papers should cover the intellectual sources and influences on the historical development of the National Socialist or Soviet Communist system. Papers should be 3000 words, should honour scholarly conventions of a research paper in history or political thought and are due **December 6th in lecture**.

Take Home Exam

The take home exam will cover all the material covered in the course. It will be handed out on **December 6th in lecture** and must be returned to my office (Patterson 2A59) by **2:00pm on Friday December 10th**. **Take Home exams submitted after 2:00pm will receive a grade of zero. Electronic submissions of take home exams will not be accepted.**

Review Essay

The course places a special emphasis on the relationship of the individual to ideologies that negate individuality. As a result, this course is particularly interested in the intellectual responses of individuals, survivors, witnesses and even perpetrators, of totalitarianism. Each student is expected to review a work that addresses the period, one of the regimes in question **and** was authored by a witness, survivor or participant. The review essay should critically evaluate the contribution of the work to our understanding of totalitarianism. Students may choose a work on their own, with prior approval, or draw on the following list. Review Essays should be approximately 1500 words in length. **The review essay is due on October 25th.**

Eugenia Ginzburg, *Within the Whirlwind*
 Margarete Buber-Neumann, *Under Two Dictators*
 Elie Wiesel, *Night*
 Aleksander Solzhenitsyn, *The Gulag Archipelago*
 Whittaker Chambers, *Witness*

George Orwell, *Homage to Catalonia*
Leon W. Wells, *The Janowska Road*
Arthur Koestler, *Darkness at Noon*
Viktor Kravchenko, *I Chose Freedom*
Irmgard Hunt, *On Hitler's Mountain*
Gerda Weissman Klein, *All But My Life*
Imre Kertesz, *Fatelessness*
Primo Levi, *The Periodic Table*

Completion of Course Work

All components of the course, including class attendance, are mandatory. Failure to complete any component of the course will result in a failing grade in the course as a whole.

Grading

A+ Extraordinary work that greatly exceeds the requirements of a fourth year paper. This grade is rarely awarded.

A Excellent work: very insightful analysis; clear and persuasive thesis that goes beyond the ideas presented in lecture; free of any typographical or grammatical errors;

A-/ B+ Very strong work: insightful and clear, but in need of a bit of clarification, revision, or proofreading.

B/B- Good work. Demonstrates a solid understanding of the text and lectures, but requires more significant revision, clarification, or proofreading

C+ /C/C- Average to poor work. Lacks a clear or insightful thesis and requires extensive revision, clarification, or proofreading

F Unacceptable or non-existent work.

A Final Note

Completion of all elements of the course is mandatory. Failure to complete any component or components will result in a failing grade.

REGULATIONS COMMON TO ALL HUMANITIES COURSES

COPIES OF WRITTEN WORK SUBMITTED

Always retain for yourself a copy of all essays, term papers, written assignments or take-home tests submitted in your courses.

PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in “*substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.*”

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of “F” for the course

GRADING SYSTEM

Letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100 (12)	B = 73-76 (8)	C - = 60-62 (4)
A = 85-89 (11)	B- = 70-72 (7)	D+ = 57-59 (3)
A- = 80-84 (10)	C+ = 67-69 (6)	D = 53-56 (2)
B+ = 77-79 (9)	C = 63-66 (5)	D - = 50-52 (1)

F	Failure. Assigned 0.0 grade points
ABS	Absent from final examination, equivalent to F
DEF	Official deferral (see “Petitions to Defer”)
FND	Failure with no deferred exam allowed -- assigned only when the student has failed the course on the basis of inadequate term work as specified in the course outline.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean.

WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

The last date to withdraw from **FALL TERM** courses is **DEC. 6, 2010**. The last day to withdraw from **FALL/WINTER (Full Term)** and **WINTER** term courses is **APRIL 5, 2011**.

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at: carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that your Instructor receives your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by the last official day to withdraw from classes in each term. For more details visit the PMC website: carleton.ca/pmc/accommodations/

PETITIONS TO DEFER

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a **FINAL** assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply a deferral of examination/assignment. If you are applying for a deferral due to illness you will be required to see a physician in order to confirm illness and obtain a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination or assignment deadline. This supporting documentation must specify the date of onset of the illness, the degree of incapacitation, and the expected date of recovery.

If you are applying for a deferral for reasons other than personal illness, please **contact** the Registrar’s Office directly for information on other forms of documentation that we accept.

Deferrals of assignments must be supported by confirmation of the assignment due date, for example a copy of the course outline specifying the due date and any documented extensions from the course instructor.

Deferral applications for examination or assignments must be submitted within **5 working days** of the original final exam.

ADDRESSES: (Area Code 613)

College of the Humanities 520-2809	300 Paterson
Greek and Roman Studies Office 520-2809	300 Paterson
Religion Office 520-2100	2A39 Paterson
Registrar's Office 520-3500	300 Tory
Student Academic Success Centre 520-7850	302 Tory
Paul Menton Centre 520-6608/TTY 520-3937	501 Uni-Centre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-2600 Ext. 1125	4 th Floor Library
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125	4 th Floor Library