

HIST 0306: Global Fascism

Fall 2017: Wed 1:30-4:15, Atwater A100

Prof. Maggie Clinton

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OHs: Mon 1:00-3:00 and Thurs 1:30-2:30, or by appointment

Prof. Max Ward

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OHs: Tues 3:15-5:00 and Wed 11-12:15, or by appointment

Course Description: What was, or is, fascism? How do we know it when we see it? Can fascism be understood as an exclusively European phenomenon, or did it become manifest in movements and regimes in other parts of the twentieth-century world? In this seminar, we will engage with such questions via a range of texts including manifestos, films, and scholarly works. The first part of the course will interrogate seminal theories of fascism, the second will examine historical instances of fascism with particular emphasis on East Asia, and the final part will engage with debates about the contemporary resurgence of authoritarian populism.



Design: This is a 300-level seminar consisting of one three-hour meeting per week. The course is based on student participation and student-led discussions. Learning goals for the class include: (1) distinguishing between historical materials and the questions/concepts we bring to those materials, (2) analyzing a variety of different sources (films, novels, sociological writings, etc.), and (3) understand how historical actors have attempted to define and confront different aspects of fascism.

COURSE MATERIALS

Readings on Middfiles:

All readings are available via the course MIDDLEFILES site. You can access Middfiles by either directly connecting to the server, or through the library's hub (go/hub).

Classes> Fall2017 > HIST306a> SHARE > Weekly Readings > Specific Week Folder

GRADING

*Participation:	25% (participation and responses)
In-class presentation	10%
Short Essay	40% (20% each)
Final Essay	25%

**We reserve the right to adjust your grade if absences, tardiness and/or lack of participation become a problem. Weekly responses will not be given a letter grade. However, we will return your responses with comments promptly each week. Weekly responses contribute to your participation grade.*

Participation, Responses and Student Presentations:

Participation: Students will be expected to contribute to our collective discussion. As a general rule, during discussion students should: (1) respect each other's contributions, (2) address the comments of other students as they offer their own and; (3) directly address the texts under analysis. Our role will be to support the discussion leaders' efforts and occasionally interject comments and questions.

Responses: Students are expected to write 5 responses (2 paragraphs in length, about 1 page single-space) and post these to the shared folder for the course in MIDDLEFILES:

Classes >Fall2017 >HIST306a >SHARE >Weekly Responses >Specific Week Folder
Please name your file "LASTNAME_TOPIC." You are required to complete **FIVE out of the EIGHT** responses over the course of the semester. In your response papers, you should identify a theme/problem that you found particularly interesting and develop a set of questions for us to discuss in class. These responses will be **due by 5 p.m. on Tuesday** so that the discussion leaders and professors can read them. **Late responses will not be accepted.** Responses will not be given a letter grade, but the effort displayed in them will count towards the participation component of your overall grade (20%). We will hand these back to you with comments during the seminar meeting.

Group Presentations: You will sign-up to give a group presentation once during the semester. Your presentation will be on a topic related to that week's theme and decided in consultation with the professors the week before.

ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION

Attendance and Participation: Attendance and active participation is mandatory. Students are allowed one unexcused absence per semester. Additional absences, without a dean's excuse, will significantly reduce your final grade.

Late Assignments: Any late papers **will be marked down** each grade step for every day late (i.e., A- to B+, etc.) *including weekends*. Work that is more than five days late will not be accepted, unless cleared with your Dean. Late postings will not be accepted.

Plagiarism: According to the Middlebury Student Handbook: "Plagiarism is a violation of intellectual honesty. Plagiarism is passing off another person's work as one's own. It is taking and presenting as one's own the ideas, research, writings, creations, or inventions of another. It makes no difference whether the source is a student or a professional in some field. For example, in written work, whenever as much as a sentence or key phrase is taken from the work of another without specific citation of the source, the issue of plagiarism arises." Additionally, "Paraphrasing is the close restatement of another's idea using approximately the language of the original. Paraphrasing without acknowledgment of authorship is also plagiarism and is as serious a violation as an unacknowledged quotation." Suspected cases of plagiarism will be reported to the Dean. To familiarize yourself with Middlebury's guidelines, refer to the College's Honor Code (go/honorcode).

Sources: Wikipedia and similar online sites are often unreliable sources. Although papers will be based on the assigned readings, if you do decide to use different sources, please discuss your sources with the professors before you start your paper.

Technology in the classroom: Please turn off your cell phone before class starts and refrain from texting. We reserve the right to prohibit computers if they become distracting.

Email Policy: If you have questions regarding the course, please come to our office hours. You can also email us, but important matters are best handled during office hours. Please allow enough time for us to respond to email, particularly over weekends. If you do email, please include *both* professors on the same email.

Recording Policy: Students may not make audio or video recordings of class sessions without the written permission of both instructors.

Accommodations: Students involved in **sports or other extracurricular activities** will need to notify us at the beginning of the semester about any scheduling conflicts that might arise. Students with **documented disabilities** should be in touch with the ADA Office prior to the start of the semester. Please contact Jodi Litchfield, the ADA Coordinator, at litchfie@middlebury.edu or 802-443-5936 for more information.

Pass/Fail: We will assume all students are taking this class for a letter-grade. If your performance appears to be sliding into the D range, we will submit a course-warning. You do not need to inform us that you are taking the class P/F, but it is your responsibility to explain to your Dean that you are taking this class pass/fail.

SCHEDULE

This schedule is subject to change with sufficient notice

PART ONE: THEORIES OF FASCISM

Week One: The Political Horizons of Modernity

Sept 13th

—Marshall Berman, *All that is Solid Melts Into Air* Preface, Introduction

Week Two: Modernity and Fascism

Sept 20th:

—Mark Neocleous, *Fascism: Concepts in Social Thought* (1997), pp. ix-18, 59-74.

—Jeffrey Herf "Paradox of Reactionary Modernism" in *Reactionary Modernism: Technology, Culture and Politics in Weimer and the Third Reich*, pp. 1-17.

—Gilbert Allardyce, "What Fascism is Not: Thoughts on the Deflation of a Concept" in *The American Historical Review*, Vol. 84, No. 2 (April, 1979), pp. 367-388

Short paper #1 assigned - due in Week Four

Week Three: Modernism and Fascism

Sept 27th

—Susan Sontag, "Fascinating Fascism" (1974)

—Mark Antliff. "Fascism, Modernism, and Modernity." *The Art Bulletin* 84, no. 1 (2002): 148-169.

—Watch in class: Leni Riefenstahl, *Triumph of the Will* (1935), selections
(Student presentations #1)

PART TWO: HISTORICAL FASCISMS (a). Europe

Week Four: European Fascisms

Oct 4th

— Kevin Passmore, *Fascism: A Very Short Introduction* First Edition 2002 (chapters TBD)

No response due this week

Short paper #1 due via email by 12noon Friday October 6th

Week Five: Italy

Oct 11th

— Futurist selections from Marinetti, Prezolini, et al (pp. 49-53 and 273-279)

— Giovanni Gentile, "The Philosophic Basis of Fascism" in *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 6, No. 2 (Jan 1928), pp. 290-304

—Mussolini, "The Doctrine of Fascism," Retis "Aims and Policies" (1934-35) pp. 5-25

—Short secondary source TBD

(Student presentations #2)



Week Six: Germany

Oct 18th

—Joseph Goebbels, *Michael* (all)

—Secondary source TBD

(Student presentations #3)

Week Seven: Germany, continued

Oct 25th

—Zygmunt Bauman, *Modernity and the Holocaust* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1989), Preface, Intro and Ch. 4.

—Moishe Postone, “Anti-Semitism and National Socialism” in: Rabinbach and Zipes, eds. *Germans and Jews Since the Holocaust: The Changing Situation in West Germany* (New York: Holmes and Meier, 1986), pp. 302-314.

(Student presentations #4)

HISTORICAL FASCISMS (b). East Asia

Week Eight: China

Nov. 1st

—Maggie Clinton, *Revolutionary Nativism: Fascism and Culture in China, 1925-1937* (Duke UP, 2017), selections

—Peter Zarrow, *China in War and Revolution* (Routledge, 2005), selections
(Student presentations #5)

Week Nine: Japan

Nov. 8th

—Maruyama Masao, “Theory and Psychology of Ultra-Nationalism” (1946), in Maruyama Masao, *Thought and Behavior in Modern Japanese Politics* (1969) edited by Ivan Morris, pp. 1-24.

—Herbet Bix, “Rethinking ‘Emperor-System Fascism’; Ruptures and Continuities in Modern Japanese History” in *Bulletin of Concerned Asian Scholars* (Vol. 14, No. 2) June 1982, pp. 2-19

—Duus and Okimoto “Comment: Fascism and the History of Pre-War Japan: The Failure of a Concept” in *The Journal of Asian Studies*, Vol. 39, No. 1 (Nov. 1979), pp. 65-76

(Student presentations #6)

short paper #2 assigned

PART THREE: POSTWAR AFTERLIVES(?)

Week Ten: Nostalgic Romanticism in the Postwar

Nov. 15th:

(No Response Due)

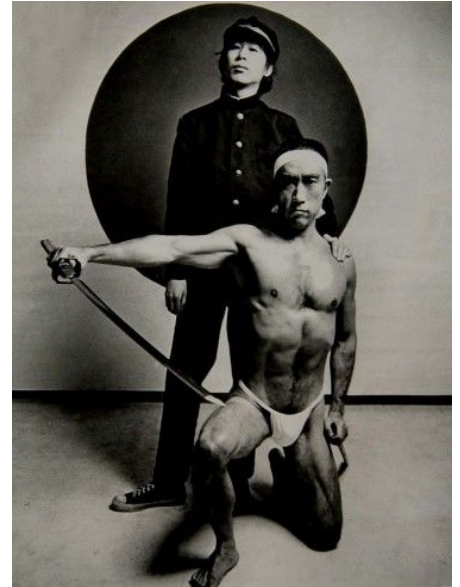
—Mishima Yukio, *Selections* (pp. 71-87)

—Watch: Mishima Yukio, *Yukoku* (28 Mins; 1966) on youtube

—In class, watch: short documentary clip on the “Mishima Incident” (1970)

Deadline for deciding final paper topic

Short paper #2 due via email by 12noon Friday Nov 18th



Week Eleven: Thanksgiving Break

Class Does Not Meet

Week Twelve: Fascism and Authoritarian Populism

Nov 29th:

—Federico Finchelstein, *From Fascism to Populism in History* (California, 2017), introduction

—Corey Robin, *The Reactionary Mind: From Edmund Burke to Donald Trump* (second edition, Oxford, 2017), selections
(Student presentations #7)

Week Thirteen: Final Paper Discussion and Course Wrap-Up

Dec 6th

(No Response Due)

—Discuss recent writings (TBD) on fascism in our contemporary moment

—In class, share your final paper topic (e.g., question you want to pursue, and what readings you will analyze to do so)

—Course wrap-up and Evaluations

FINAL PAPER DUE DURING EXAM WEEK (TBD)

