

## **Hannah Arendt: Literature, Philosophy, Politics**

GRMN 612-401, COML612, ENGL612, JWST612, PHIL581

Weissberg

Fall 2024

Tuesdays, 1:45-3:45pm

Kislak Center, Van Pelt Library 627

The seminar will focus on Arendt's major work, *The Origins of Totalitarianism* (and its three parts, Anti-Semitism, Imperialism, Totalitarianism).

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| <b>August 27</b>    | Arendt, "The Jew as Pariah: The Hidden Tradition"<br>(essay placed on canvas)  |
| <b>September 3</b>  | Arendt, "Jewish Politics," "The Crisis of Zionism,"<br>"Zionism Reconsidered"<br>(essays placed on canvas)   |
| <b>September 10</b> | Arendt, <i>The Origins of Totalitarianism</i><br>Book One: Antisemitism<br>Chapter One: Antisemitism as an Outrage to Common Sense                   |
| <b>September 17</b> | Arendt, <i>The Origins of Totalitarianism</i><br>Book One: Antisemitism<br>Chapter Two: The Jews, the Nation-State, and the Birth of<br>Antisemitism |
| <b>September 24</b> | Arendt, <i>The Origins of Totalitarianism</i><br>Book One: Antisemitism<br>Chapter Three: The Jews and Society                                       |
| <b>October 1</b>    | Arendt, <i>The Origins of Totalitarianism</i><br>Book One: Antisemitism<br>Chapter Four: The Dreyfus Affair  |
| <b>October 8</b>    | Arendt, <i>The Origins of Totalitarianism</i><br>Book Two: Imperialism<br>Chapter Five: The Political Emancipation of the Bourgeoisie                |
| <b>October 15</b>   | Arendt, <i>The Origins of Totalitarianism</i> <b>(session on zoom)</b><br>Book Two: Imperialism<br>Chapter Six: Race-Thinking Before Racism          |
| <b>October 22</b>   | <b>no class</b>  |

- October 29**      Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*  
Book Two: Imperialism  
Chapter Seven: Race and Bureaucracy
- November 5**      Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*  
Book Two: Imperialism  
Chapter Nine: The Decline of the Nation-State and the End of the Rights of Men
- November 12**      Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*  
Book Three: Totalitarianism  
Chapter Ten: A Classless Society
- November 19**      Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*  
Book Three: Totalitarianism  
Chapter Eleven: The Totalitarian Movement
- November 26**      **No class:** Th F classes moved to T and W.
- December 3**      Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*  
Book Three: Totalitarianism  
Chapter Twelve: Totalitarianism in Power  
Chapter Thirteen: Ideology and Terror  
Final Discussion

Reading material: Hannah Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*. Additional material for individual sessions will be placed on canvas.

Course requirement: one research paper (ca. 20 pages), due May 1.

Office Hours: W, 3:30-4:30 pm, Williams Hall 747 and by appt. ([lweissbe@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:lweissbe@sas.upenn.edu))