

The Worst of Times: Everyday Life in Authoritarian and Dictatorial Societies

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Office hours: typically immediately after each class as needed, and by appointment

Aims and Scope of the Class:

This course is an outgrowth of one of my primary areas of research, the nature of popular culture and everyday life under communism in Eastern Europe. Citizens' experiences of communism in Eastern Europe and the USSR will be an important focus of the course, as will life under the Nazi regime from 1933 to 1945. But the inquiry will also extend into problems of authoritarian rule more generally, exploring the ways in which ordinary people have coped with, endured, obeyed, resisted, supported, compromised with, and sometimes ignored the dictatorial regimes that sought to control their minds and lives, and the minds and the lives of others. With these questions at the forefront, we will consider the communist and fascist experiences in an explicitly comparative context, drawing on the record of other authoritarian governments (cases addressed in the assignments and in lectures may include, for example, Franco's Spain and Salazar's Portugal, Iran after the Islamic Revolution, Pinochet's Chile, the Philippines under Marcos, communist China, Cuba, and Vietnam).

Course Requirements: Midterm exam: 35% Final exam: 65%

****NOTE:** To pass this class you must reasonably satisfy *all* the course requirements with a reasonable, good-faith effort. Failure to satisfy *any* one of the course requirements will result in a grade of F for the course.

Exams:

The exams will include a substantial, wide-ranging essay or essays that will ask you to analyze the assigned course material in light of the major themes of the course, the varying methodological perspectives from which we will approach those issues, and the critical interpretative problems that we will study. Other elements such as short-answer questions or IDs may be included, at my discretion. I will discuss the exams in more detail in class. Unless otherwise stated, no aids of any kind will be permitted during the administration of these exams.

****Make up exams:** Make-up exams will be given only in the case of a valid, documented excuse beyond the student's control (e.g., medical problems). Any make-up exam may be given in a different form and include different content. For example, the make-up test may be in the form of an oral exam!

****We cannot make arrangements for alternate exam times due to multiple exams scheduled closely together, plans to leave campus early, etc. Check your exam schedule now -- they're available to you through TritonLink -- and make sure you've chosen a course schedule that you can live with throughout the course and at finals time!!**

----- Final Exam: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11 from 7:00-10:00 pm (location: check TritonLink!!) -----

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: It is your responsibility to know and observe all university rules concerning academic integrity and plagiarism. Any student found to have committed a substantial violation of the university rules concerning academic integrity will fail the entire course. I view it as one of my chief responsibilities to help each of you produce first-rate academic work that reflects your own original thinking about the course themes and material. If you have any questions whatsoever about what constitutes plagiarism, how to properly credit the work and ideas of others, how to evaluate sources for quality and reliability, and so forth, please feel free to come see me.

Required readings: Note: You should have read and thought about the course readings by the dates indicated. Books are available for purchase at the UCSD Bookstore and on reserve at Geisel Library. Required texts for the course include the following:

Books for purchase/on reserve:

Detlev J.K. Peukert, *Inside Nazi Germany: Conformity, Opposition, and Racism in Everyday Life* (Yale UP, 1989)
ISBN-10: 0300044801 ISBN-13: 978-0300044805

Katherine Pence and Paul Betts, eds., *Socialist Modern: East German Everyday Culture and Politics* (U Michigan, 2008)
ISBN-10: 0472069748 ISBN-13: 978-0472069743

Amy Randall, *The Soviet Dream World of Retail Trade and Consumption in the 1930s*
ISBN-10: 0230573967 ISBN-13: 978-0230573963

Erica Fischer, *Aimée & Jaguar: A Love Story, Berlin 1943* (Alyson Books, 1998)
ISBN-10: 1555834507 ISBN-13: 978-1555834500

Zlatko Anguelov, *Communism and the Remorse of an Innocent Victimizer* (Texas A&M University Press, 2002)
ISBN-10: 1585441953 ISBN-13: 978-1585441952

Slavenka Drakulić, *How We Survived Communism and Even Laughed* (Harper Perennial, 1993)
ISBN-10: 0060975407 ISBN-13: 978-0060975401

Jasmina Tesanović, *Diary of a Political Idiot: Normal Life in Belgrade* (Cleis Press, 2000)
ISBN-10: 1573441147 ISBN-13: 978-1573441148

Marjane Satrapi, *The Complete Persepolis* (Pantheon, 2007)
ISBN-10: 0375714839 ISBN-13: 978-0375714832

Required viewings: For insight into the texture of ordinary life, the study of images and film will be a significant part of the course. The specific assignments below should **be viewed in advance of the class** with which they are listed. Those listed as in-class videos are not assignments; they are listed here for reference purposes only. You may view the videos in the Arts Library at Geisel, or you may stream them online: reserves.ucsd.edu/eres/coursepage.aspx?cid=14663&page=docs From off campus, use the UCSD proxy server to get access; please search the libraries' web site for information.

Week 1: SEPTEMBER 29

Intro -- One Classic Case, Many Fundamental Issues: The Everyday Experience of Fascism

Assignments:

Katherine Pence and Paul Betts, "Introduction," in Pence and Betts, *Socialist Modern*

Detlev J.K. Peukert, *Inside Nazi Germany* (focus on the Introductory Note & chs. 1, 3-7, 9, 13)

Recommended reading:

Ben Highmore, "Introduction: Questioning Everyday Life," *The Everyday Life Reader*, pp. 1-34.

Alf Lütke, "Introduction: What Is the History of Everyday Life and Who Are Its Practitioners?"
in Alf Lütke, ed., *The History of Everyday Life*, ch. 1, pp. 3-40.

In-class video (excerpts only): *Ewige Schönheit - Film und Todessehnsucht im Dritten Reich*

Week 2:

OCTOBER 6

Discipline, Control, Punishment: The Familiar and Not-So-Familiar Tools of Obedience

Assignments:

Review/read: Peukert, *Inside Nazi Germany*, chs. 3, 4, 11

Greg Eghigian, "Homo Munitus: The East German Observed," in Pence and Betts, *Socialist Modern*

Anna Funder, *Stasiland*, ch 6, "Stasi HQ," 54-66, and ch. 23 "Hohenschönhausen," 222-234

Alon Confino, "The Travels of Bettina Humpel: One Stasi File and Narratives of State and Self in East Germany," in Pence and Betts, *Socialist Modern*

Film to be viewed before class: *The Lives of Others*, dir. F.H. von Donnersmarck (Germany 2006).

In-class video (excerpts): *Larks on a String/Skřivánci na niti*, dir. Jiří Menzel (ČSSR 1969/1990)

Week 3:

OCTOBER 13

The World of Work: Building Community, Manufacturing Consent

Assignments:

Review: Peukert, *Inside Nazi Germany*, chs. 5 and 6 (middle classes and working classes)

Victoria De Grazia, *How Fascism Ruled Women: Italy, 1922-1945*, ch. 6, "Working," 166-200, with notes at 319-325.

Alf Lüdtke, "The World of Men's Work, East and West," in Pence and Betts, *Socialist Modern*

Thomas Lindenberger, "'Asociality' and Modernity: The GDR as a Welfare Dictatorship," in Pence and Betts, *Socialist Modern*

Film to be viewed before class: *Moscow Does Not Believe in Tears/Moskva slezam ne verit*, dir. Vladimir Menshov (USSR 1979)

Week 4:

OCTOBER 20

Model Youth/Young Rebels? Controlling the Future through the Next Generation – Or Not

Assignments:

Detlev Peukert, *Inside Nazi Germany*, ch. 8, "Young People: Mobilisation and Refusal"

Dorothee Wierling, "Youth as Internal Enemy: Conflicts in the Education Dictatorship of the 1960s," in Pence and Betts, *Socialist Modern*

Film to be viewed before class: *Hey Babu Riba/Bal na vodi*, dir. Jovan Aćin (Yugoslavia 1987).

Week 5:

OCTOBER 27

Private Lives and Private Desires: Dating, Romance, Love, Sex, Family

Assignments:

Victoria De Grazia, *How Fascism Ruled Women: Italy, 1922-1945*, ch. 3 "Motherhood," 41-76, with notes at 302-311.

Erica Fischer, *Aimée & Jaguar: A Love Story, Berlin 1943*

Dagmar Herzog, "East Germany's Sexual Evolution," in Pence and Betts, *Socialist Modern*

Film to be viewed before class: *The Legend of Paul and Paula*, dir. Heiner Carow (GDR 1973)

Week 6:

NOVEMBER 3

Going Along to Get Along: Everyday Life between Complicity and Resistance

MID-TERM EXAM !!! – note: you don't need to read Anguelov and see The Witness for the midterm

Assignments:

Zlatko Anguelov, *Communism and the Remorse of an Innocent Victimizer*

Film to be viewed before class: *The Witness/A tanú*, dir. Péter Bacsó (Hungary 1969).

Week 7:

NOVEMBER 10

The Good Life in the Worst of Times, Part One: Abundance, Satisfaction, Compliance

Assignments:

Hartmut Berghoff, "Enticement and Deprivation: The Regulation of Consumption in Pre-War Nazi Germany," in Martin Daunton and Matthew Hilton, eds., *The Politics of Consumption*, 165-184.

Sheila Fitzpatrick, *Everyday Stalinism: Ordinary Life in Extraordinary Times: Soviet Russia in the 1930s*, Introduction, ch. 2, "Hard Times," and Conclusion, 1-13, 40-66, 218-227, with notes at 229-230, 234-239, 265-266.

Amy Randall, *The Soviet Dream World Of Retail Trade & Consumption In The 1930s* (all)

Paul Betts, "Building Socialism at Home: The Case of East German Interiors," in Pence and Betts, *Socialist Modern*

Judd Stitzel, "Shopping, Sewing, Networking, Complaining: Consumer Culture and the Relationship between State and Society in the GDR," in Pence and Betts, *Socialist Modern*

Katherine Pence, "Women on the Verge: Consumers between Private Desires and Public Crisis," in Pence and Betts, *Socialist Modern*

Recommended:

Irene Guenther, *Nazi Chic? Fashioning Women in the Third Reich*, chs. 4 ("Fashioning Women in the Third Reich") and 5 (" 'Purifying' the German Clothing Industry"), 91-166, with plates between pp. 150-151, and notes at 329-374.

Philipp Heldmann, "Negotiating Consumption in a Dictatorship: Consumption Politics in the GDR in the 1950s and 1960s," in Martin Daunton and Matthew Hilton, eds., *The Politics of Consumption*, 185-202.

Ina Merkel, "Alternative Realities, Strange Dreams, Absurd Utopias: On Socialist Advertising and Market Research," in Pence and Betts, *Socialist Modern*

In-class video (excerpts only): *Budapest Retro*, *Budapest Retro 2*, *East Side Story*

Week 8:

NOVEMBER 17

The Good Life in the Worst of Times, Part Two: Leisure, Play, Sport, Pleasure, Fun

Assignments:

Shelley Baranowski, *Strength through Joy: Consumerism and Mass Tourism in the Third Reich*, ch. 5 ("Racial Community and Individual Desires: Tourism, the Standard of Living, and Popular Consent"), 162-198.

Robert Edelman, *Serious Fun: A History of Spectator Sports in the U.S.S.R.*, chs. 1 ("Socialism and Spectator Sports") and 6 ("Entertainment in the Age of Soviet Normalcy"), 3-25, 155-193, with notes at 252-254, 267-271.

Patrick Hyder Patterson, "Yugoslavia As It Once Was: What Tourism and Leisure Meant for the History of the Socialist Federation," forthcoming in the volume tentatively titled *Yugoslavia's Sunny Side: A History of Tourism in Socialism, 1950s-1980s*, Hannes Grandits and Karin Taylor, editors.

Film to be viewed before class: *Hot Summer (Heisser Sommer)*, dir. Joachim Hasler (GDR 1968)

Recommended:

Robert Edelman, "A Small Way of Saying No: Moscow Working Men, *Spartak* Soccer, and the Communist Party, 1900–1945"

Sabrina P. Ramet, *Balkan Babel: The Disintegration of Yugoslavia from the Death of Tito to Ethnic War*, ch. 5, "Rock Music," 91-115.

In-class video (excerpts only): *Olympia*, dir. Leni Riefenstahl (Germany 1938)

Week 9:

NOVEMBER 24

Other Authoritarianisms: Beyond Fascism and Communism, Beyond Europe

Assignments:

Marjane Satrapi, *The Complete Persepolis*

Jasmina Tesanović, *Diary of a Political Idiot: Normal Life in Belgrade*

Selections from *The Cuba Reader*: Benjamin, Collins, and Scott, "How the Poor Got More," 344-353; Arenal, "Fish a la Grande Jardiniere," 354-362; Yglesias, "In the Fist of the Revolution," 375-377; Lewis, Lewis, and Rigdon, "The 'Rehabilitation' of Prostitutes," 395-398; Randall, "The Family Code," 399-405; Landau, "The Revolution Turns Forty," 623-627.

Michela Wrong, *In the Footsteps of Mr. Kurtz: Living on the Brink of Disaster in Mobutu's Congo*, front-matter map (p. xi) through Introduction, and chs 7 ("Never Naked") and 8 ("The Importance of Being Elegant"), xi-11, 145-186, with photo pages after p. 148.

Film to be viewed before class: *Strawberry and Chocolate/Fresa y chocolate*, dir. Tomás Gutiérrez Alea and Juan Carlos Tabío (Cuba/Spain/Mexico 1990)

Week 10:

DECEMBER 1

The Worst of Times Remembered: Recalling and Retelling the Histories of Everyday Life

Assignments:

Slavenka Drakulić, *How We Survived Communism and Even Laughed*

Daphne Berdahl, "Re-Presenting the Socialist Modern: Museums and Memory in the Former GDR," in Pence and Betts, *Socialist Modern*

Film to be viewed before class: *Sonnenallee*, director Leander Haussmann (Germany 1999)
** subject to availability of a DVD with subtitles – we will discuss this in class!

Final Exam: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11 from 7:00-10:00 pm (location: check TritonLink!!)