

Religious Studies 402: Senior Honors Seminar A Case Study for a New Millennium:

Understanding Authoritarian Ideologies, Individuals, Institutions and Cultures

Core Objective: Each student will:

- Develop awareness of the presence of authoritarianism as it manifests inside socio-historical and political structures.

Course Objectives: Each student will:

- Develop and utilize an accurate vocabulary about authoritarianism, capitalism, communism, fascism, and socialism
- Develop cross-cultural awareness as it relates to nation-state authoritarianism
- Research a twentieth-century or a twenty first-century example of nation-state authoritarianism

Assignments: Each student will:

- Write a 4-6 page documented biographical paper about an individual who taught, promoted, and modeled authoritarianism
- Write a 4-6 page documented paper about an individual who actively resisted the pressures of authoritarianism inside authoritarian cultures
- Prepare a documented list of readings using the APA format to document work completed.

Beginning Vocabulary: Each student will develop an accurate working vocabulary

- Autocrats and autocracies
- Authoritarianism
- Capitalism
- Communism
- Dictators
- Fascism

- Free-market Capitalism
- Nonresistance
- Nonviolent resistance
- Oligarchs
- Pacifism
- Patriarchs
- Socialism
- Totalitarianism

Suggested Reading: Diagnosing the Issues and Problems: Authoritarianism in Individuals, Institutions, and Cultures

Select a variety of resources from the bibliographic listing below. Begin with what you already know and then expand your use of resources to take you into areas of study where you are a beginner. Compare and contrast the readings in order to create an internalized map of what you know and what you intuit about this difficult arena of personal and professional study.

- Adorno, Theodore and Hoban, Wieland (2020). *Aspects of the Right-Wing Extremism*. New York, NY: Polity.
- Adorno, Theodore, Elsa Frankel-Brunswick, Daniel J. Levinson, and R. Nevitt-Sanford (2019). *The Authoritarian Personality*. New York, NY: Verso Publications.
- Arendt, Hannah (2006). *Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil*. New York, New York: Penguin Classics.
- Arendt, Hannah (1973). *The Origin of Totalitarianism*. New York, NY: Brace/Jovanovich.
- Cohan, Stanley (2001). *States of Denial: Knowing About Atrocities and Suffering*. New York, NY: Polity Press.
- Conwell, John, *Hitler's Pope: The Secret History of Pius XII*, New York, NY: Penguin, 2000.

- Gossen, Benjamin W. “A Small World Power”: How the Nazi Regime Viewed Mennonites. *Mennonite Quarterly Review* (pp. 173-206). Retrieve from https://scholar.harvard.edu/files/goossen/files/goossen_a_small_world_power_2018.pdf
- Gossen, Benjamin W. (2017). *Chosen Nation: Mennonites and Germany in a Global Era*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Goossen, Ben (October 29, 2020). How to Catch a Mennonite Nazi. Anabaptist Historians. Retrieve from <https://anabaptisthistorians.org/tag/mennonites-and-national-socialism/>
- Herschel, Abraham Joshua. *In This Hour: Abraham Herschel’s Writings in Nazi Germany and London Exile*. (2019). The Jewish Publication Society.
- Keen, Sam. (1991). *Faces of the Enemy: Reflections o the Hostile Imagination*. New York. Harper and Row.
- Kelman, Herbert C. and V. Lee Hamilton. (1989). *Crimes of Obedience: Towards a Social Psychology of Authority and Responsibility*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.
- Kramer, Joel and Alstad, Diana. *The Guru Papers: Masks of Authoritarian Power*. Berkeley, CA: Frog Ltd., 1993.
- Lanzmann, Claude (1985). *The Shoah*: (a documentary in five parts). For information about this important documentary series, see Wikipedia and follow links to find individual you tube segments; Retrieve from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shoah_\(film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shoah_(film))
- Lifton, Jay (2017). *Nazi Doctors. Medical Killing and the Psychology of Genocide*. New York, NY: Basic Books.
- Milgram, Stanley. (2017). *Obedience to Authority: An Experimental View*. New York, NY: Harper/Perennial Editions.
- Nafziger-Leis, Cheryl (Now, Cameron Alteras). (1997). *Art ... Even after Auschwitz: Adorno’s Critical Theory of*

Art, Religion and Ideology. Dissertation: Center for the Study of Religion, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada. Retrieve from

<https://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/obj/s4/f2/dsk2/ftp02/NQ28025.pdf>

- Schirch, Lisa (March 9, 2018). Mennonites, Nazism, White Supremacy, and the Holocaust: A Summary. Lisa Schirch Webpage. Retrieve from <https://lisaschirch.wordpress.com/2018/05/09/mennonites-nazism-white-supremacy-and-the-holocaust-a-summary/>
- Wiesenthal, Simon (1998). *The Sunflower: On the Possibilities and Limits of Forgiveness*. New York, NY: Schocken.
- Wiesel, Ellie and Martin Gilbert (2011). *The Jews of Silence*. New York, NY: Schocken Paperbacks.
- Zimbardo, Phillip. (2008). *The Lucifer Effect: Understanding How Good People Turn Evil*. New York, NY: Random House.

Resistance to Oppressive Individuals, Institutions, Cultures and Ideologies

Suggested Reading: Diagnosing the Issues and Problems: Authoritarianism in Individuals, Institutions, and Cultures

Select a variety of resources from the bibliographic listing below. Again, begin with what you already know and then expand your use of resources to take you into areas of study where you are a beginner. Compare and contrast the readings in order to create an internalized map of what you know and what you intuit about this difficult arena of personal and professional study.

- Barber, William, II (2020). *We Are Called to Be Nonviolent*. New York, NY: Workman Publishing Company.
- Berrigan, Daniel (2008). *The Kings and Their Gods: The Pathology of Power*. Grand Rapids: Erdmans.
- Bonhoeffer, Dietrich (1995). *The Cost of Discipleship*. New York, NY: Touchstone Publishing.
- Bonhoeffer, Dietrich (2015). *Letters and Papers from Prison*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press.
- Cardenal, Ernesto: (2010). *The Gospel in Solentiname*. Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Press.
- Coffin, William Sloane with Martin Marty (2008). *The Collected Sermons of William Sloane Coffin: The Riverside Years, Volume One*. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press.
- Coffin, William Sloane with Martin Marty (2008). *The Collected Sermons of William Sloane Coffin: The Riverside Years, Volume Two*. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press.
- Dear, John (2009). *Daniel Berrigan: Essential Writings*. Maryknoll, New York, Orbis Press.
- Forest, Jim (2017). *At Play in the Lion's Den: A Biography and Memoir of Daniel Berrigan*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis.
- Gutierrez, Gustavo (1988). *A Theology of Liberation*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Press.
- Harding, Vincent (2012). You Tube: International Racial Healing Town Hall: *Creating America*. Retrieve from:
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T6W42KLpNgQ>
- Harding, Vincent (2008). *Martin Luther King: The Inconvenient Hero*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Press.
- Harding, Vincent in Friesen, Lauren and Koehn, Dennis (Forthcoming), *The Beggars Are Rising – Where Are the Saints? Liberation and Responsibility: Anabaptism and Cultural Engagement*.

- Hockenos, Mathew D. (2018). *Then They Came for Me: Martin Niemoller – The Pastor Who Defied the Nazis*. Cokesbury Press.
 - Jackson, Jessye L. (2019) *Keeping Hope Alive: Sermons and Speeches of Rev. Jessye Jackson, Sr.* Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Press.
 - King, Martin Luther (April 16, 1963). *Letter from a Birmingham Jail*. Retrieve from https://www.africa.upenn.edu/Articles_Gen/Letter_Birmingham.html
 - King, Martin Luther (2000). *The Complete Sermons of Martin Luther King, Jr.* (Volumes 1-7). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.
 - Mataxes, Eric (2020). *Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy*. New York, NY: Thomas Nelson Publishing.
 - Primo, Levi (2013). *Survival in Auschwitz*. Create Space Independent Platform Books.
 - Segundo, Juan Luis (1978). *The Hidden Motives of Pastoral Action: Latin America*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Press.
 - Thomas, Ian (2003). *Levi Primo: A Life*. New York, NY: Metropolitan Books.
 - Wiesel, Ellie. *The Oath*. (1993). New York, NY: Schocken Publishing.
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- Wiesenthal, Simon (1998). *The Sunflower: On the Possibilities and Limits of Forgiveness*. New York, NY: Schocken Press. (Note: Read Wiesenthal's opening essay and then choose three or four replies to his question about forgiveness. Take your time and think

about your responses to Wiesenthal's essay and to the various replies which the book offers.)

Windows – Learning From Biography: The Who List

Instructions:

Select eight or ten names from the lists below. Research these individuals and their life histories and socio-cultural context. Then write a short narrative paragraph about their personal identities; what they believed; and what they accomplished in their lifetimes. Don't rush this process. Utilize multiple sources and let each individual teach you about his or her life and its struggles and accomplishments.

The lists are not all-inclusive. I have sought to include people we have all heard about as well as people we have never heard about. I personally believe that a wide cultural perspective is needed. We need to understand the arts; we need to research the politics of a given person and a given historical era. For example, I believe sports are an art form – similar but different from the visual arts, the musical arts, the dramatic arts. Allowed a voice, individuals and entire cultures find unique ways to express themselves.

After you have studied ten individual's lives, go on to another ten and repeat the process. As you work your way through the lists, add names that are important ones to you. Add names that you uncover in your studies.

Take breaks along the way to find your own voice; to give your body-mind the opportunity to absorb what you are learning. Allow your studies to challenge you and to inspire you. Think about what is important and think about how you are utilizing this time of study and reflection to change your self-other awareness. Ask what you can do and what you need to do to change the trajectory of racism in our collective culture and in your personal life.

The Who List of Perpetrators and Ideological Theorists

- Martin Borman

- Eva von Braun
- Werhner von Braun
- Peter Brimelow
- Karl Donitz
- Adolph Eichmann
- Walther Funk
- Josef Goebbels
- Hermann Goering
- Maxim Gorky
- Julia Hahn
- Martin Heidegger
- Heinrich Himmler
- Adolf Hitler
- Alfred Jodi
- Wilhelm Keitel
- Vladimir Lenin
- Karl Marx
- Josef Mengele
- Wilhelm Moedel
- Joachim Mrugowski
- Benito Mussolini
- The USA organization VIDARE
- Franz von Papen
- Erich Raeder
- Joachim von Ribbentrop
- Erwin Rommel
- Albert Speer
- Vladislov Surkov

The American Nazi and Ku Klux Klan (1959 – Present) Who List

- Louis Beam
- Jeff Berry
- Rosie Chappell

- Don Black
- David Duke
- John Lee Clary
- Eldon Edwards
- Ron Edwards
- Virgil Lee Griffin
- David Wayne Hull
- Bob Jones
- Thomas Robb
- George Lincoln Rockwell
- Samuel Rober
- Robert Shelton
- William Joseph Simmons
- Mary Elizabeth Tyler
- Bill Wilkinson
- Proud boys

World War Two Concordats and Agreements

- Lateran Treaty or Lateran Pact of 1929 with Pope Pius XI
- The Vatican Concordat with the Third Reich

The Resistance Who List

- Theodore W. Adorno
- Marian Anderson
- Ida B. Wells Barnett
- Max Beckman
- Ernst Barlock
- Simone de Beauvoir
- Daniel Berrigan
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- Ernesto Cardenal
- William Churchill
- Mary Daly

- Frederick Douglas
- Anne Frank
- Charles de Gaulle
- George Grosz
- Charles de Galle
- Gustavo Gutierrez
- Fanny Lou Hamer
- Albert Einstein
- Langston Hughes
- Barbara Jordan
- Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Gideon Klein
- Kathe Kollwitz
- George C. Marshall
- Thomas Merton
- Nelle Morton
- Pauli Murray
- Thich Nhat Hanh
- Martin Niemoller
- Emil Nolde
- Pablo Picasso and Guernica
- Levi Primo
- Sojourner Truth
- Juan Luis Segundo
- Dorothee Soelle
- Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn
- Charlotte Solomon
- Alexander Solzhenitsyn
- Paul Tillich
- Leo Tolstoy
- Sojourner Truth
- Harriet Tubman
- Simone Weil
- Simon Wiesenthal
- Ellie Wiesel

Nazi Era Resistance Movements

- Germany: The Confessing Church
- France: The Resistance Movement

Vocabulary

- Anti-Semitism
- Aryan Supremacy
- Capitalism
- Communism
- Democracy
- Fascism
- Ku Klux Klan
- Nazi
- Reconstruction Era, USA
- Republic
- Racism
- Socialism
- White Nationalism
- White Supremacy
- WKKK - Women of the Ku Klux Klan (USA auxiliary group) -
- Neo-Nazi
- Proud Boys

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