



Descriptif d'enseignement

Cours en ligne pour le semestre 1 de 3ème année

Titre du cours:

MODERN POLITICAL RADICALISM

Langue: English

ECTS : 5 ECTS

Enseignant: Dr. Cătălin Avramescu

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Résumé du cours :

“Radicalism” is a notoriously fuzzy concept. There are radical thinkers, radical arguments, radical writings, radical parties, and radical regimes. This course will attempt to provide a working definition of radicalism, while at the same time to document the development and variety of modern radical movements. We will explore the formation of some of the most influential radical ideologies and we will also pay attention to the institutional context.

Objectifs du cours:

ACADEMIC OBJECTIVES:

1. A broad knowledge of the history of radical political ideologies
2. An introduction to select theories of revolution
3. An understanding of the range of radical regimes and policies

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- A. Skills in critical analysis of primary and secondary texts
- B. Awareness of the cultural and historical context
- C. Ability to present key ideas

Dispositif d'enseignement à distance

À définir (Zoom, Teams ou autre)

Evaluation

À définir (oral ou écrit)

Plan du cours :

Week 1, session 1

Dangerous Books and Angry Men. Popular Radicalism

1st part (1 hour). Talking points:

What is radicalism? Radicalism in everyday life. Dangerous books and subversive movements.

Suggested readings:

David Horspool, *The English Rebel: One Thousand Years of Trouble-making from the Normans to the Nineties*

William Andrews, *Dissenting Japan. A History of Japanese Radicalism and Counterculture, from 1945 to Fukushima*

Srdja Popovic, *Blueprint for Revolution. How to use rice pudding, Lego men, and other non-violent techniques to galvanize communities, overthrow dictators, or simply change the world*

Ann Larabee, *The Wrong Hands: Popular Weapons Manuals and Their Historic Challenges to a Democratic Society*

2nd part (1 hour). Talking points:

Populism: Left of Right? The challenge of populism.

Suggested readings:

Jan-Werner Müller, *What is Populism?*

Cas Mudde, Cristóbal Rovira Kaltwasser, *Populism: A Very Short Introduction*

Kirk A. Hawkins, *Venezuela's Chavismo and Populism in Comparative Perspective*

Steven Levitsky, *Transforming Labor-Based Parties in Latin America: Argentine Peronism in Comparative Perspective*

Hans Vorländer, Maik Herold, Steven Schäller, *PEGIDA and New Right-Wing Populism in Germany*

WEEK 1, SESSION 2

Theories of Revolution

1st part (1 hour). Talking points:

The modern state and the revolution. Marx and the idea of “class struggle”. The revolutionary party invented. The Leninist revisionism. “Socialism in a single country”.

Suggested readings:

Karl Marx/Friedrich Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*
Leszek Kolakowski, *Main Currents of Marxism*
Hannah Arendt, *Origins of Totalitarianism*
Pavel Campeanu, *Origins of Stalinism: From Leninist Revolution to Stalinist Society: From Leninist Revolution to Stalinist Society*

2nd part (1 hour). Talking points:

The fascist idea of revolution. The cult of the leader. The fascist political organization. Corporatism. The idea of “counter-revolution” and the rise of reactionary thought.

Suggested readings:

Filippo Tommaso Marinetti, *The Futurist Manifesto*
Zeev Sternhell, *The Birth of Fascist Ideology: From Cultural Rebellion to Political Revolution*
Robert O. Paxton, *The Anatomy of Fascism*
Wolfgang Schivelbusch, *The Culture of Defeat: On National Trauma, Mourning, and Recovery*
Michael Mann, *Fascists*, Corey Robin, *The Reactionary Mind: Conservatism From Edmund Burke To Sarah Palin*

WEEK 1, SESSION 3

Prophets and Firebrands. Political Religion and Radical Intellectuals

1st part (1 hours). Talking points:

The concept of “political religion”. Millenarism. Occultism and politics.

Suggested readings:

Norman Cohn, *The Pursuit of the Millennium*
Nicholas Goodrick-Clarke, *Black Sun: Aryan Cults, Esoteric Nazism, and the Politics of Identity*
Eric Kurlander, *Hitler's Monsters. A Supernatural History of the Third Reich*
Philip Jenkins, *The Great and Holy War: How World War I Became a Religious Crusade*

2nd part (1 hour). Talking points:

Radical utilitarianism. The vanguard of the people. The “right to revolution”.

Suggested readings:

Elie Halevy, *The Growth of Philosophic Radicalism*
James H. Billington, *Fire in the Minds of Men: Origins of the Revolutionary Faith*
Peter Singer, *Animal Liberation*
Richard Wolin, *The Seduction of Unreason: The Intellectual Romance with Fascism from Nietzsche to Postmodernism*

WEEK 2, SESSION 4

Forces of Disorder. Anarchism and Terrorism

1st part (1 hour). Talking points:

What is anarchism? Origins of anarchism. Left- vs. Right-anarchism.

Suggested readings:

Colin Ward, *Anarchism. A Very Short Introduction*
Sergey Nechayev, *The Revolutionary Catechism*
Noam Chomsky, *On Anarchism*
Peter Marshall, *Demanding the Impossible. A History of Anarchism*
Brian Doherty, *Radicals for Capitalism: A Freewheeling History of the Modern American Libertarian Movement*

2nd part (1 hour). Talking points:

The culture of political violence. Origins of terrorism. Actors and groups. The process of radicalization. Responses to terrorism.

Suggested readings:

Michael Burleigh, *Blood and Rage: A Cultural History of Terrorism*
Randal Law, *Terrorism. A History*
Dan Edelstein, *The Terror of Natural Right: Republicanism, the Cult of Nature, and the French Revolution*
Robert Conquest, *The Great Terror: A Reassessment*
Audrey Kurth Cronin, *How Terrorism Ends: Understanding the Decline and Demise of Terrorist Campaigns*

WEEK 2, SESSION 5

Race, War and Extreme Politics

1st part (1 hour). Talking points:

The rise of modern racist theories. The discourses on “degeneration” and the science of “eugenics”. Justifications of genocide.

Suggested readings:

Edwin Black, *War Against the Weak: Eugenics and America's Campaign to Create a Master Race*
Paul Weindling, Marius Turda, *Blood And Homeland: Eugenics And Racial Nationalism in Central And Southeast Europe, 1900-1940*
Thomas C. Leonard, *Illiberal Reformers: Race, Eugenics, and American Economics in the Progressive Era*
Gotz Aly, *Hitler's Beneficiaries: Plunder, Racial War, and the Nazi Welfare State*
Alon Confino, *A World Without Jews: The Nazi Imagination from Persecution to Genocide*

2nd part (1 hour). Talking points:

The military and the modern state. Theories of “total war”. The culture of *Vernichtungskrieg*. Weapons of mass-destruction and the modern political imagination.

Suggested readings:

Samuel Finer, *The Man on Horseback: The Role of the Military in Politics*
David A. Bell, *The First Total War: Napoleon's Europe and the Birth of Warfare as We Know It*
Isabel V. Hull, *Absolute Destruction: Military Culture and the Practices of War in Imperial Germany*
Geoffrey P. Megargee, *Combat and Genocide on the Eastern Front, 1941*
Herman Kahn, *On Thermonuclear War*

