



**HISTORY 1404E (670)**  
**Hitler, Stalin and Mussolini: The Totalitarian Age**  
**Fall/Winter 2025 - 2026**

Instructor: Dr. Oleksa Drachewych  
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**Course Information**

**Calendar Description:**

An introduction to the theory and practice of totalitarianism through a comparative study of regimes established by Hitler, Stalin and Mussolini. Topics include the seizure of power, personality cults, culture, education and propaganda, bio-politics, terror, war, the Holocaust, resistance movements.

**Prerequisite(s):**

**Antirequisite(s):** [History 2147A/B](#).

**Extra Information:** 3 hours.

**Course Weight:** 1.00

**Breadth:** Category A

**Subject Code:** History

Notice: Unless you have either the requisites for this course (fulfilment of pre-requisites, no anti-requisite conflicts), or special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

**King's University College**  
**History 1404E (670) – Hitler, Stalin & Mussolini: The Totalitarian Age**

**F/W 2025-26**

**Course information:**

Course Name, Number, Section: History 1404E 670  
Instructor(s): Oleksa Drachewych  
Contact Information: [odrachew@uwo.ca](mailto:odrachew@uwo.ca)  
Office hours: on Zoom

**Course description:** An introduction to the theory and practice of totalitarianism through a comparative study of regimes established by Hitler, Stalin and Mussolini. Topics include the seizure of power, personality cults, culture, education and propaganda, bio-politics, terror, war, the Holocaust, resistance movements.

**Antirequisites:** History 2147 A/B

**Prerequisites:** N/A

*Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.*

**Course learning outcomes:**

In a time where concerns over the rise of what is popularly viewed as totalitarianism underpin discussions on the polarization of today's political landscape, it is important to look back at the history of the regimes focused on in this course to understand how they came to be, how they operated, and the leading figures behind them, whether Joseph Stalin, Benito Mussolini or Adolf Hitler.

In this class, students will come to understand how these regimes became established and gain a general comprehension of what made these regimes "totalitarian" and to understand the totalitarian paradigm as an analytic tool, including evaluating its strengths and weaknesses. By looking at society, culture, economics, politics, diplomacy and war, students should come to appreciate the nature of these regimes. Furthermore, through a wide variety of sources, students will learn important techniques to evaluating documents, diaries, articles and books as historians. A prominent theme in this course will be teaching students how to read historical sources, including full academic monographs, to provide a foundation for later classes after first-year, whether in history or in another discipline in the humanities. In addition, by looking at three different regimes, with differences in starting points, execution and ideology, comparison will be a prominent feature of this course, as will be an examination at the legacies of Stalinism, Nazism and Fascism after their demise, including how this history influences current events today.

By the end of this class, students will:

- Be able to define totalitarianism, use the term to analyze certain regimes, discovering the strengths and limitations of the paradigm
- Understand the key events, causes, ideas, and concepts in the history of Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy, and the Soviet Union 1917-1953
- Learn how to analyze primary and secondary sources
- Learn to read historical monographs, including how to identify a book's thesis and how a historian develops their argument; this will be augmented by teaching note-taking techniques to get the most out of assigned readings and provide a foundation for further development in later courses in both history and the humanities.
- Appreciate and understand historical writing and research
- Develop their own arguments through short analytical pieces and larger assignments
- Interact and discuss course readings and historical concepts with other students through online forum discussions
- Be introduced and practice proper sourcing and citations
- Enhance their writing skills through a variety of different assignments

**Mode of Instruction:** Online asynchronous

**Course textbooks/materials:**

The following books are available for purchase through the Bookstore at Western. Some of these books are available digitally through King's Libraries at no additional cost.

Bookstore link: [https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=KC&term=W2025&courses%5B0%5D=670\\_KC/HIS1404E](https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=KC&term=W2025&courses%5B0%5D=670_KC/HIS1404E)

*Required:*

- Lydia Chukovskaya, *Sofia Petrovna* (Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 1994) (\$32.50)
- Sheila Fitzpatrick, *The Russian Revolution*, Updated Edition (Oxford University Press, 2017) (\$26.55 or ebook rental \$16.00)
- Ian Kershaw, *The Hitler Myth: Image and Reality in the Third Reich* (Oxford University Press, 2001) (\$30.60)

*Recommended:*

- Bruce F. Pauley, *Hitler, Stalin, and Mussolini: Totalitarianism in the Twentieth Century*, 4th ed. (Chichester: Wiley Blackwell, 2015) (\$45.85 or ebook \$29.00)

- Mary Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History*, 10th ed. (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2021). (\$43.95 or ebook \$26.00)

\*Older editions may be used. Please note that page numbers may not match up though and there may be minor differences in content or translation.

Additional readings for discussions will be posted on OWL Brightspace.

Students will be expected to have access to a computer and stable internet in order to complete this course.

### **Method of evaluation:**

- 20% - Participation (Top four of five marks based on online participation during periods ending October 18, December 5, January 31, March 7 and April 9)
- 10% - Primary Source Analysis (due October 29)
- 10% - Midterm (take home exam during December Exam period)
- 10% - Article Analysis (due February 10)
- 20% - Research Paper (due March 25)
- 30% - Final Exam (take home exam during April Exam period)
- **Participation:** A prominent feature of this class will be teaching students how to read academic monographs. Students should expect, on average, to read roughly 20-25 pages for each week for their weekly participation. Often, this will be focused around three books, which will be assigned across several weeks. Students will be given methods to practice notetaking, while guided by specific questions to help them get the most out of these readings. Additionally, these readings will be used in multiple other assignments in this course, including the research paper, the midterm, and the final exam (and may be useful for the literature analysis and article analysis too!). On some occasions, there will be break from the assigned books to focus on other types of sources or activities to help introduce students to other historical sources and other perspectives. Students will be given a goal each week and will be expected to complete the task, often also responding to some of their classmates.

Students will be given **five participation marks**, reflecting their efforts to complete the assigned goals across several weeks of the course. **An average of the top FOUR marks will be used to determine a student's participation mark.** This serves a couple of purposes – firstly, it rewards students who are engaged throughout by allowing them to maximize their mark. Secondly, this provides some built-in leniency for students should they have a period where they fall behind for whatever reason, and still allow the student to be able to earn a strong mark. *As a result, there will be no "late" penalty and with the built-in flexibility, the professor reserves the right to refuse to deny academic accommodation as relates to the participation mark.*

- **Midterm:** A take-home midterm will take place during to the December exam period. This exam will have a mix of identification questions and an essay question on topic covered during the first term. This essay question will cover a topic that is discussed in

the Fitzpatrick book. Students will have roughly one full week to complete this exam and will be expected to cite course content. The deadline will be determined by the King's Registrar Office.

- **Final Exam:** The take-home final exam will take place during the April exam period. It will include an identification section, before including two essay sections that require students to use course materials, including the assigned books, to fully answer. The deadline will be determined by the King's Registrar Office. Students will have roughly one full week to complete the exam.

### **Essay Component:**

Three separate assignments make up the essay component of this course. Each assignment will focus on one skill important for the development of historical research and analysis. All assignments can be completed fully using course materials and online sources available through King's Libraries.

- **Primary Source Analysis:** Students will write a **750-1000 word (this word count does not include citations)** analytical discussion of *Sofia Petrovna* (this book is available via the bookstore) and the diary of Stepan Podlubny, both which provide an account, one fictionalized, one not, of a person's life during The Great Terror in the Soviet Union. In this review, students will answer a guiding question which will require them to develop an argument using the content of the book and the diary to answer. Students can also use the assigned textbook and lecture material to develop their analysis. This assignment will focus on argumentative skills and analytical skills of primary sources. Further instructions will be posted on OWL Brightspace.
- **Article Analysis:** Students will be assigned an article, made available on OWL Brightspace, and need to analyze its content. In **750 words (this word count does not include citations)**, students will need to identify the article's main arguments, its methodology, and its conclusion. Marks will be given to the quality of the analysis and the clarity and effectiveness of its writing. This assignment will focus on writing skills and analytical skills of secondary sources. Further instructions will be posted on OWL Brightspace.
- **Research Essay:** Students will write a **1,250 to 1,500 word argumentative research paper (this word count does not include citations)**. Students will have a series of questions to choose from; each question will require use of at least one of the books predominantly used in History 1404E. As such, it rewards students who keep up with the readings as they will already have a sense of some of that book's arguments and content and how it can be used in support of their paper! Students will then need to find and cite at least five *additional* academic sources, one of which must be an additional book, in their research paper. Further instructions will be posted on OWL Brightspace.

**Information for all assignments:** Every assignment will be due at 11:59 pm ET on its due date, submitted electronically via OWL Brightspace.

Students are expected to use Chicago-style citations for **every written assignment**. Footnotes or endnotes are acceptable. In-text citations, unless otherwise stated, are not.

Failure to use the required number of academic sources for an assignment will cap one's mark at a 68. If students are unsure about a source, they are encouraged to contact the professor or their teaching assistant.

### **Course Specific Policies:**

- **Late Policy:** As per the King's University College Department of History guidelines – a penalty of five marks will be assessed for essays submitted the first day after deadline, followed by a penalty of one mark per day including weekends.
- **Course Requirements:** Students who fail to **submit** the writing assignments which make up the essay component of the course (primary source analysis, article analysis, and research paper) as specified in the course outline will not receive credit for the course.
- **Email Policy:** Students are welcome to speak to the professor during office hours or by appointment, either in person or via Zoom. Regarding email, he will aim to respond within 24 hours. One exception to this rule will be weekends where he will aim to respond within 48 hours.

### **Academic Integrity:**

Western Scholastic Discipline policy:

[https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

AI Policy: King's is committed to fostering a culture of professionalism, honesty, and academic integrity, and all members of our community—faculty, staff, and students—have a role to play in promoting an ethical learning environment. Furthermore, through the work they submit for academic evaluation, students develop important habits of critical thinking, independent inquiry, and creativity. Thus, it is expected that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial) except as explicitly permitted by the course instructor.

Turnitin: This class will use Turnitin on all submitted assignments to check for plagiarism.

### **Schedule of Classes, Readings, Assessments:**

NOTE: In this class, we will discuss antisemitism, racism, genocide, violence and terror. Should students feel uncomfortable discussing these issues, they should speak with the professor.

**Fall Term:**

**CONTEXT**

**Module 1: September 4 - 20– What is Totalitarianism?; Context: Roots and Trends: 1890 to Versailles**

**LENINISM**

**Module 2: September 21 – 27 - The Russian Revolutions: The Bolsheviks Come to Power**

**Module 3: September 28 - October 4 –The Russian Civil War**

**STALINISM**

**Module 4: October 5 – 11 - The Rise of Stalinism: From Lenin to Stalin**

**Module 5: October 12-18 - The Revolution from Above: Collectivization, Industrialization and the Cultural Revolution**

**FIRST PARTICIPATION MARK CUTOFF: October 18**

**Module 6: October 19 – 25 – The Great Terror**

**Module 7: October 26 - 31 - Creating a “Soviet” State**

**PRIMARY SOURCE ANALYSIS DUE October 29**

**READING WEEK – November 1 - 9**

**Module 8: November 10-15 - Resistance under Stalinism**

**Module 9: November 16-22 –Stalinism and the Second World War, 1939-1945**

**Module 10: November 23-29 - From High Stalinism to Destalinization**

**Module 11: November 30 to December 5 – Review**

**SECOND PARTICIPATION MARK CUTOFF – December 5**

**Winter Term:**

**FASCIST ITALY**

**Module 12: January 5-10 - The Rise of Mussolini**

**Module 13: January 11-17– Fascist Italy at Home**

**Module 14: January 18-24 - Fascist Italy Abroad**

**Module 15: January 25-31 - Biopolitics in Fascist Italy**

**THIRD PARTICIPATION MARK CUTOFF – January 31**

**NAZI GERMANY**

**Module 16: February 1-7 - The Rise of Hitler and the Nazi Seizure of Power**

**Module 17: February 8-13 –The Nazi Party, Bureaucracy and State**

**ARTICLE ANALYSIS DUE February 11**

**READING WEEK – FEBRUARY 14-22**

**Module 18: February 23-28 - Nazi Cultural and Gender Policies**

**March 19: March 1 - 7 – Nazi Racial Policies**

**FOURTH PARTICIPATION MARK CUTOFF – March 7**

**Module 20: March 8-14 – The Holocaust**

**FASCISM AND NAZISM IN COMPARISON**

**Module 21: March 15-21 – Resistance under Fascism and Nazism**

**Module 22: March 22-28 - Nazism and Fascism at War**

**RESEARCH PAPER due March 25**

**Module 23: March 29 – April 4 – The Aftermath of War: Denazification in Germany and After Fascism in Italy**

**LEGACIES**

**Module 24: April 5-9 - The Legacies of Fascism and Totalitarianisms Compared**

**FIFTH PARTICIPATION MARK CUTOFF – April 9**

**April Exam period – Final Take-Home Exam**

# KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

## GENERAL COURSE POLICIES

### 2025-2026

#### 1. Academic Accommodations, Consideration for Absences

##### **Academic Accommodation (Accessibility)**

Accessibility Services works to ensure that academic programs are accessible to all students, and supports students who may have a condition related to, but not limited to, vision, hearing, mobility, different ways of learning, mental health, chronic illnesses, chronic pain, autism spectrum disorder, ADD/ADHD, and temporary conditions (beyond short-term academic consideration). Accessibility Services provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive assessment. The accommodation policy can be found here [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Information on Accessibility Services at King's can be found [here](#).

##### **Academic Consideration for Student Absence**

If a student is unable to meet a course requirement due to substantial but temporary extenuating circumstances (medical or compassionate), they should follow the procedures below.

In some cases, where instructors have built flexibility into their assessments, this flexibility will already address consideration needs.

Requests for academic consideration should be directed to the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration. Requests must be made as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

As a rule, documentation is required for academic consideration. For academic consideration requests on medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate is available at [https://www.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/courses\\_enrollment/exams\\_and\\_tests/S\\_MC-Feb-2025.pdf](https://www.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/courses_enrollment/exams_and_tests/S_MC-Feb-2025.pdf).

Students are permitted one academic consideration request without supporting documentation per term per course.

Instructors may designate one assessment per half-course weight as requiring formal supporting documentation. Please refer to the course outline for each course.

For further information, please see:

[https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/academic\\_consideration\\_Sep24.pdf](https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf)

##### **Absences from Final Examinations**

If you miss the Final Exam, contact the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a “Multiple Exam Situation” (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, or more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar for details (under [Special Examinations](#)).

## **Religious Accommodation**

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give notice in writing to the instructor and Academic Advising Office if a course requirement will be affected by a religious holiday/observance. Notice must be given as early as possible, and no later than two weeks prior to an examination, and one week prior to a midterm test date. It is the responsibility of such students to inform themselves concerning the work done in classes from which they are absent and to take appropriate action.

## **2. Support Services**

Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King’s University College:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-services/>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King’s University College: <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>

Good2talk is a good online and phone 24/7 resource for students and is available in English, Mandarin, and French: <https://good2talk.ca>, 1-866-925-5454

MentalHealth@Western provides a complete list of options about how to obtain help:

[https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/](https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/)

Academic Support Services at King’s University College:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-resources/>

### **GBSV Support:**

King’s is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

You can reach someone supports at Kings by emailing [Care@kings.uwo.ca](mailto:Care@kings.uwo.ca) or calling 519-930-4640 to reach a social worker who can offer help.

You can also reach Western’s Gender-Based Violence & Survivor Support Case Manager by [email](#) or by calling 519-661-3568.

Further supports can be found on this website: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

See also [https://www.uwo.ca/health/student\\_support/survivor\\_support/get-help.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html)

University Students' Council offers many valuable support services for students, including the health insurance plan: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

### 3. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

**Use of Electronic Devices:** Unless explicitly stated otherwise, you are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations. Unauthorized possession of such a device during a test or examination constitutes an academic offence.

**Use of Laptops, Tablets, and Smartphones in the Classroom:** King's University College at Western University acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of electronic devices such as laptop computers, tablets, or smartphones can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of electronic devices by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using electronic devices for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct; see <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-affairs/code-of-student-conduct1/>

Inappropriate use of electronics (e.g., laptops, tablets, smartphones) during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students attending in-person class sessions are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.

### 4. Statement on Academic Offences

King's is committed to academic integrity. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, is posted at

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

It is expected that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial) except as explicitly permitted by the course instructor. Check with you instructor on what tools, including generative AI (ChatGPT, translation tools, grammar-checking tools) are permitted in the course. Because a tool is permitted in one course, that does not mean it is permitted in other courses.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system; see

<https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/Originality Reports - TurnItIn.html>.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

### **5. Copyright of Course Material**

Lectures and course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. Faculty members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a faculty member. Unauthorized sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member wishes to post a student's answers or papers on the course website, they should ask for the student's written permission.

### **6. Use of Recordings**

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation and/or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor. Unauthorized recording and/or sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

### **7. Policy on Attendance**

Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course, after due warning has been given. On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course.