

Political Science 597
Totalitarianism Real and Imagined

Instructor: Dr. Jeffrey C. Herndon
162 Ferguson Social Science Building
Jeffrey.Herndon@tamuc.edu

Office Hours: M/W 10:00-11:00
And by appointment

Course Description: This class is an exploration of the origins, causes, and implications of totalitarianism as a distinct political possibility. The title of the course is something of a metaphor in that all totalitarian regimes are “imaginary” in the sense that they require the willful intellectual suspension of reality as it exists in favor of a secondary reality that only exists for the followers of the totalitarian faith.

Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Identify the characteristics of totalitarianism.
2. Distinguish between totalitarian regimes and other types of regimes.
3. Understand the conditions that make totalitarianism possible.

Book List: The following books are required for this course.

Adams, Richard. 1975 (rpt. 2005). *Watership Down*. New York. Scribner.
978-0743277709

Arendt, Hannah. 1973. *The Origins of Totalitarianism*. New York. Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich.
978-0156701532

Atwood, Margaret. 1998. *The Handmaid's Tale*. New York. Anchor Publishing.
978-0385490818

Gregor, A. James. 2012. *Totalitarianism and Political Religion: An Intellectual History*. Redwood City, CA. Stanford University Press.
978-0804781305

Huxley, Aldous. 2006 (rpt.). *Brave New World*. New York. Harper Perennial.
978-0060850524

Voegelin, Eric. 1997. *Science, Politics and Gnosticism*. Washington, D.C. Gateway Editions.
978-0895264190

Zamyatin, Yevgeny. 1993. *We*. Trans. Clarence Brown. New York. Penguin Classics.
978-0140185850

Course Requirements: Students will be required to write one discussion paper each week over the readings assigned. And “discussion” paper means exactly that. Each student in the class is responsible for the classroom discussion that will make up the bulk of our time together. Students are required to bring books assigned for a given class period to class.

In addition to the weekly discussion papers, students will be responsible for a 10-15 page paper on an agreed upon topic related to the course that will be due on July 6 at noon.

In both the discussion papers and the final paper students are required to adhere to APSA style [<http://www.apsanet.org/portals/54/Files/Publications/APSASStyleManual2006.pdf>] unless you are not a political science major. In this case you may use the citation style appropriate to your discipline, but please be sure to indicate what that is.

Grading: Final grades will be determined using the following percentages.

30%	Discussion Papers	45%	Final Paper
15%	Participation		

Readings calendar: The following represents our best estimate as to where we should be for each class period. Students are responsible for the readings assigned for each day. In addition, you are responsible for the readings assigned.

June 6: Voegelin
June 8: Zamyatin
June 13: Gregor, Chapters 1-5
June 15: Gregor, Chapters 6-10
June 20: Arendt, 267-388
June 22: Arendt, 289-479
June 27: Huxley
June 29: Adams
July 6: Final papers due no later than noon

University Syllabus Requirements

Students with Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services Texas A&M University-Commerce Gee Library Room 132 Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835 Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to <http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf> and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.
“All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.”