

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: Challenges to Fascism

Course Number and Section:

PHILOSOP

3045G 550

Instructor Name(s): D'Arcy, Stephen

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Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

Fascism may be defined, roughly, as a regime or social movement that rejects pluralistic democracy and civic equality; promotes devotion to a supposedly charismatic leader; favours an ethnically or racially exclusionary ideal of national resurgence; aims to carry out harsh repression against groups demonized as politically subversive or ethnically foreign; and deems the nationalist Right to be uniquely exempted from moral or constitutional constraints that prohibit political violence. Wherever fascism has arisen, it has been forcefully challenged in words and deeds by antifascist resistance movements, aiming to defend democratic and egalitarian values against the threat posed to them by fascist violence. As a political project opposed to democracy, equality and human solidarity, fascism has also been critically analyzed by philosophers for over a century. Many influential philosophical thinkers, including Jean-Paul Sartre, Bertrand Russell, Aimé Césaire, Hannah Arendt, T.W. Adorno, and Angela Davis, among others, have made notable contributions to antifascist thought. In this course, we examine some notable challenges to fascism, by reading and engaging with three short books: "How Fascism Works: The Politics of Us and Them," written by liberal philosopher Jason Stanley; "The Black Antifascist Tradition: From Anti-Lynching to Abolition," written by decolonial-marxist social theorists Jeanelle Hope and Bill Mullen; and "The Philosophy of Antifascism: Punching Nazis and Fighting White Supremacy," written by anarchist philosopher Devin Shaw.

Learning Outcomes:

Ability to carefully weigh arguments for and against various approaches to antifascist thought and action

Ability to think, speak, and write insightfully about antifascism in philosophy

Ability to evaluate and apply a wide range of concepts and perspectives in social philosophy and political theory, and a wide range of strategic perspectives found in democratic social movements

Textbooks and Course Materials:

All readings are accessible, at no cost, in an electronic format, on Brightspace.

Methods Of Evaluation:

| Assignment | Due Date mm/dd/yy | Weight - % |
|------------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| Short Paper on Jason Stanley | 02/11/2025 | 20% |
| Short Paper on Hope & Mullen | 03/13/2025 | 20% |
| Short Paper on Shaw | 02/04/2025 | 20% |
| Attendance & Participation | | 10% |
| Final Exam | | 30% |

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.

Monday, December 16, 2024