

PHILOSOPHY 764: Selected Topics in Social and Political Philosophy: Hannah Arendt

Fall 2017

Wednesdays 10:30 am – 1:00 pm, UH 316 (Tower room)

Instructor: Diane Enns

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Description:

In this course we will read the major works of Hannah Arendt, focusing on her conceptualization of political life in relation to social, ethical and intellectual life. Throughout the course we will pay particular attention to the current relevance of her ideas regarding fascism, totalitarianism, “race-thinking,” the social/political divide, pluralism, action, and thinking (and its absence).

Texts:

*The Origins of Totalitarianism*

*The Human Condition*

*Eichmann in Jerusalem*

*The Life of the Mind*

Assessment:

Weekly writing: Eight (1-2 pp) commentaries on the readings, 40%  
Final Essay = 60%

Class Schedule:

Sept. 6: Introduction

Sept. 13: *The Human Condition*, chs. 1-2

Sept. 20: *The Human Condition*, chs. 3-4

Sept. 27: *The Human Condition*, ch. 5

Oct. 4: *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, Part II, chs. 5-7

READING WEEK

Oct. 18: *Origins*, Part II, chs. 8-9

Oct. 25: *Origins*, Part III, chs. 12-13

Nov. 1: *Eichmann in Jerusalem*, selections

Nov. 8: *The Life of the Mind*, Part I, Thinking (pp. 19-65; 69-98)

Nov. 15: *The Life of the Mind*, Part I, Thinking cont. (pp. 129-193)

Nov. 22: *The Life of the Mind*, Part II, Willing (pp. 3-110)

Nov. 29: *The Life of the Mind*, Part II, Willing cont. (pp. 125-146 and pp. 195 -217)

Dec. 6: Appendix, “Judging”