A.5. LIST OF COURSES/MODULES

start the description of every course/module on the new page by duplicating the scheme bellow

Ordinal number:

**Title of course/module**: **THE EU AS AN ANTI-TOTALITARIAN PROJECT**

**Status of course/module (required/elective)**: Elective

**Name of course/module teacher**: Zoran Kurelić, Ph.D.

**Names of course/module teacher/associate teacher**: /

**Language of instruction in course/module**: English

**Number of instruction hours**: 30 – 10 hours of lectures and 20 hours of seminars

**Outline of course/module content**

The course is designed for doctoral students interested in European political thought. It is a doctoral course and the candidates are expected to know political theory at the master’s level. The purpose of the course is to create a number of sophisticated theoretical confrontations and encourage students to creatively think about politics. The question driving the entire course is: ‘Are we sure that the EU is an anti-totalitarian project?’ The expected answer should be ‘yes’, but, after the wars in former Yugoslavia it cannot be given without hesitation. Two classics of European political thinking will be discussed during the semester: Karl Popper and Hannah Arendt. The choice of theorists reveals the inners tension of the course. Popper was a liberal anti-totalitarian writer and Arendt an anti-liberal anti-totalitarian thinker. We will compare their very different understandings of totalitarianism and try to process the events from recent history through a web of concepts created by this comparison. In particular, the idea of universal human rights and the need to protect them universally, and the concepts of evil, both ‘radical’ and ‘banal’, will be discussed.

The learning outcome of the course should be a clear understanding of the two different concepts of totalitarianism and the ability of every student to use them separately and in comparison.

Two books, both of them absolute classics, will be discussed in detail: *The Open Society and its Enemies* and *The Origins of Totalitarianism*. The ˝Cash value” of the very concept of totalitarianism will be assessed, and the students will compare two quite different understandings of the political culture of our continent, and politics in general.

1. On the very idea of totalitarianism. Theories of totalitarianism as a cold war ideological attack on communism.
2. Is totalitarianism passe in post 1989 Europe?
3. On the open-closed society distinction and how to use it nowadays.
4. Political ideas in the political history of Europe.
5. Liberal universalism and totalitarianism. Popper and his critics.
6. Arendt’s narrative on the collapse of European civilization. How to read *The Origins*...?
7. On antisemitism and imperialism.
8. Totalitarianism and evil. Did ‘radical evil’ reappear in former Yugoslavia?
9. The French and the American revolution revisited. Is liberal politics genuine politics?
10. Popper vs. Arendt. Whan can we learn from them today? Is genuine politics (Arendt) possible in the EU?

Reading list (mandatory and recommended)

**Mandatory**

Popper Karl – *Open Society and its Enemies*

Arendt Hannah - *The Origins of Totalitarianism*

**Recommended**

Giorgio Agamben – *Homo Sacer*

Alain Finkielkraut - *In the Name of Humanity*

Arendt Hannah – *On Revolution*

Arendt Hannah – *Eichman in Jerusalem*

Shearmour Jeremy – *The Political Thought of Karl Popper*

Talmonn J. L., - *The Rise of Totalitarian Democracy*,

Berlin, Isaiah - *Four Essays on Liberty*

Hinchman and Hinchmn (eds.) – *Hannah Arendt, Critical Essays*

**Description of instruction methods**

We will have 13 hours of lectures and 17 hours of seminar work. The course is divided into 10 classes, 3 hours each, (one hour lecture, break, one and a half hour seminar). All students will be expected to give a 20-minute presentation and discuss other presentations. Dialogue in the seminar is the key teaching method in this course.

**Description of course/module requirements**

There will be no formal exam. All the candidates will have to write four one-thousand-word essays, and give one 20-minute presentation. They will get their grades during the semester.

**Description of monitoring of teaching quality**

Teaching is monitored though anonymous surveys that will give an opportunity to active participants to estimate its quality. These results will be further examined by the Council of the postgraduate doctoral study and by the Board for the monitoring of the quality of teachings of the Faculty of Political Science, University of Zagreb.

**Appointed ECTS (if any):** 7