

ARENDR IN AMERICA

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Winter 2020 – Tue 10 am - Maier Room

Recent times have witnessed a revival of the work of Hannah Arendt, the German political thinker who emigrated to the US during WWII. Arendt is a challenging and fascinating figure, whose thought can illuminate many of the most pressing issues of our turbulent times.

Arendt in America is devoted to Hannah Arendt's thinking on and from America. We will work mostly chronologically, focusing on her writings on totalitarianism, the American Revolution, the Eichmann trial, the Civil Rights movement, the Vietnam War, and the question of political judgment in what she called "dark times." We will also put Arendt's ideas into practice, applying her insights to current events in American politics. Each session will consist of a lecture followed by fifteen minutes of Q&A. (Since the discussion time is limited, kindly be mindful of your fellow Fromm learners by expressing questions and comments concisely).

Below you will find the syllabus, including topics and readings for each session. Readings will be emailed in pdf format, and for those who need hard copies, they will be available in the main office. Please let me know in advance so that we can make just the right amount of copies. In addition to the readings for each class, I will recommend further readings as well supplementary audio (podcast) and visual material. There is a vast universe of resources about Arendt, so do not hesitate to email me at makolesas@usfca.edu if you have a particular interest.

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	Topic	Materials
Jan 7 #1	Situating (?) Hannah Arendt	Encyclopedia Womannica (podcast) https://www.stitcher.com/podcast/wonder-media-network-

		llc/encyclopedia-womannica/e/65717524
Jan 14 #2	Statelessness: The Naked Life	"We Refugees" <i>The Origins of Totalitarianism</i> . Chapter 9: "The Decline of the Nation-State and the End of the Rights of Man"
Jan 21 #3	Totalitarianism: Not History but Politics	<i>The Origins of Totalitarianism</i> . Chapters 12 & 13: "Totalitarianism in Power" "Ideology and Terror."
Jan 28 #4	Action in America	<i>The Human Condition</i> . Chapters 1-7 (pp7-58). <i>On Revolution</i> . "The Meaning of Revolution", "Foundation II: Novus Ordo Saeclorum"
Feb 4 #5	Judgment from America	<i>Eichmann in Jerusalem</i> . Chapters VII, VIII, XV and Epilogue Audio of the Book https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=25yf4qxaS0Q
Feb 11 #6	Action in America Today	<i>Crises of the Republic</i> . "Civil Disobedience" & "Lying in Politics" https://monoskop.org/images/7/70/Arendt_Hannah_Crises_of_the_Republic.pdf
Feb 18 #7	Judgment in America Today	<i>Responsibility and Judgment</i> . "Reflections on Little Rock" & "Home to Roost"
Feb 25 #8	Between Darkness and Light	<i>Responsibility and Judgment</i> . "Personal Responsibility under Dictatorship"