

HIS 301.01
Reading and Writing History: Fascism

Satisfies: ESI

Tu/Th 9:30-10:50 am

Professor Janis Mimura

In-depth training course in the craft of history, with a systematic introduction to methods, analysis, synthesis, and writing. As the gateway course for the History major senior seminar, HIS 301 teaches students how to locate, organize, and analyze primary and secondary sources, distill the information in intelligible and meaningful writing, and convey one's findings in persuasive and articulate oral presentations. These skills will be taught through a close analysis of the ways in which historians have examined the problem of fascism as a national and transnational phenomenon. We will focus primarily on the classic cases of Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy and consider the problem of fascism in other places and in the contemporary era. Topics covered include fascism's charismatic leader, mass culture, totalitarian state, technology, and political violence. Course materials include secondary literature on fascism, as well as primary sources such as propaganda materials, film clips, speeches, and essays.