

# Hannah Arendt: Crises of the Republic: Imperialism, Racism, Fascism

Winter 2023  
Graduate Seminar taught by  
Professor Elisabeth Weber

The writings of German-American political theorist Hannah Arendt, who in 1933 had to flee German national-socialism, have in recent years been rediscovered for their strong resonance with questions that plague Western societies of the 21 century: Among others, the obliteration of the differences between truth and falsehood in politics, the crisis of the republic, the appeal of totalitarianism and racism, the resurgence of antisemitism, the “decline of the nation state and the end of the rights of man,” the exacerbation of the condition of stateless refugees, but also the enduring necessity of the revolutionary spirit. Most famous for coining the phrase of the “banality of evil,” Arendt’s concepts of “nativity” and of the “dignity of politics” stand for her staunch conviction that however dark political times are, human action can achieve radical –revolutionary– beginnings. The seminar will focus on Arendt’s oeuvre, and will include excursions to thinkers who were decisive for her intellectual journey.



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Wednesdays, 1-3:50 pm, Phelps 6206C

Enrollment codes: C LIT 200: 03723; GER 210: 24539