



## **The History of Totalitarianism Politics, Society and Culture**

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### **Introduction**

This is a one-year taught Masters' programme combining a range of seminars offered by members of staff and a 15,000 word dissertation on an agreed topic. The course is designed for students who wish to deepen their understanding of historical developments in twentieth century Europe.

### **What will I study?**

This MA will explore historical understandings of totalitarianism and the regimes which theoretically exemplified it in twentieth century Europe. What is meant by the term totalitarianism and how has it been reinterpreted by recent historical scholarship? How totalitarian were Fascist Italy, Soviet Russia, Nazi Germany or the Soviet bloc countries after 1945? How different were they from other forms of authoritarianism that emerged in the period?

The MA will examine developments under the surface of high politics, examining how citizens survived, experienced and understood these regimes, the negotiations between state and society which were involved. Key themes will include childhood and identity, conformity and belief, violence and terror, everyday life and self-understandings, sexuality and religion. The course will draw on a range of sources, including film, posters, iconography, as well as diaries, archival documents and the methodological problems involved in interpreting them.