HIS1410INTER Nyere historie fra ca. 1800 til vår tid for Internasjonale studier

Fascism and the decline of civilization

Nathaniël Kunkeler

This course looks at key cultural-political ideas in the European far-right since the Nineteenth Century, tracing continuities and developments in the concerns of fin de siècle Europe, through the violence of the First World War, until the emergence of fascism in the interwar period. Anxieties about the decline of civilisation and degeneration, new ideas of moral relativism and anti-positivism in philosophy, and fascination with the irrational and subconscious, were both general preoccupations of European societies, and the intellectual breeding ground of fascism after the upheaval of WW1. With these themes the course will explore the relationships between cultural and intellectual influences across the decades, new political ideologies, and the connections between mainstream and violent extremist political cultures.