What is totalitarianism?

Can a portrayal of suffering, even death, under a totalitarian state, have artistic value? Or must it remain only a political pamphlet?

This seminar studies Russian and Soviet authors who reveal the crimes of totalitarianism, while also showing the moral strength, and/or weaknesses, of humans victimized by the totalitarian state.

Among the authors we will read are: Lydia Chukovskaya, Vasily Grossman, Alexander Solzhenitsyn, Varlam Shalamov, Vladimir Nabokov, and Evgeny Zamyatin.