

LITERATURE CONFRONTING TOTALITARIANISM

FIRST YEAR SEMINAR

GSSL 87 SPRING 2018 TTH 2:00 - 3:15

PROF. STANISLAV SHVABRIN

APPROACH: LITERARY ARTS



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.

