

# Philosophy 190 (Seminar in Philosophical Classics): Hannah Arendt's Legal Philosophy

Professor Rita Manning

SH 241, Thursday 6PM-8:45PM

Spring 2018



In this seminar, we will examine two works by Hannah Arendt, *Eichmann in Jerusalem* (a trial of a Nazi for crimes against humanity) and “**Reflections on Little Rock**” (her response to *Brown v. Board of Education* which declared segregation in school unconstitutional and the implementation of this ruling in Little Rock, Arkansas). We will also read some of her contemporary critics.

Questions we will address as we read *Eichmann in Jerusalem*

- *What is the “banality of evil” and how can it be addressed by the law?*
- *What is a crime against humanity? How can and should the law address it?*
- *What should be the purpose of an international criminal trial?*

Questions we will address as we read “**Reflections on Little Rock**”

- *What is white ignorance and does it constitute a fundamental epistemic error in Arendt’s work on race?*
- *What is Arendt’s social/political distinction and how does it play a role in Little Rock?*
- *Why did Arendt claim that government force could not solve social prejudice? Was she right or wrong about this?*