Canetti: Between the One and the Many

INSTRUCTOR: Katia Mitova

DATES AND TIMES:
- COURSE LENGTH: Ten weeks
- DATES: September 28 – December 7
- No class on Thanksgiving

LOCATION: Online
Please make sure to accept your invitation to Canvas.

EMAIL: kmitova@uchicago.edu
(The instructor can be contacted through a Canvas message as well.)

DAY OF THE WEEK: Thursday
TIME: 9:30 AM – 12:45 PM CST

COURSE CODE: BASC50111 23A1
PREREQUISITES: None

You will receive an invitation to join Canvas about a week before your course begins. Canvas login instructions are available here: https://grahamschool.uchicago.edu/academic-programs/online/learning-resources/liberal-arts.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

One of the most evocative European writers and thinkers of the twentieth century, Elias Canetti (1905-1994) had special interest in two antithetical socio-psychological phenomena: hyper-individualism and the power of the crowds. Canetti’s insights, originating in his personal experiences in Vienna of the 1930s, found imaginative expression in his novel, Auto da Fé (Die Blendung, 1935) and his essayistic treatise, Crowds and Power (Masse und Macht, 1960). In the continuum between the madness of self-isolation and the mass madness of fascism, we’ll identify and study ambivalent concepts such as fear and fire, terror and beauty, violence and safety, collectivism and pluralism.

REQUIRED BOOKS


OF POSSIBLE INTEREST


Students can purchase books at the Gleacher Center Bookstore online at https://chicagobooth.bncollege.com/shop/chicagobooth/page/find-textbooks using the Textbook order form, or by using the ISBN number to order the correct edition elsewhere.
## WEEKLY READING SCHEDULE

More information and supplementary materials will be posted on Canvas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>AUTHOR</th>
<th>READING ASSIGNMENT</th>
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| WEEK 1      | Canetti| *Auto da Fé*  
Part One, Chs I-VI  
pp. 9-84 (75 pages) |
| 9/28        |        |                                                 |
| WEEK 2      | Canetti| *Auto da Fé*  
Part One, Chs VII-XIV  
pp. 85-166 (81 pages) |
| 10/5        |        |                                                 |
| WEEK 3      | Canetti| *Auto da Fé*  
Part Two, Chs I-VI  
pp. 167-269 (102 pages) |
| 10/12       |        |                                                 |
| WEEK 4      | Canetti| *Auto da Fé*  
Part Two, Chs VII-X  
pp. 270-365 (95 pages) |
| 10/19       |        |                                                 |
| WEEK 5      | Canetti| *Auto da Fé*  
Part Three, Chs I-VI  
pp. 367-464 (97 pages) |
| 10/26       |        |                                                 |
| WEEK 6      | Canetti| *Crowds and Power*  
The Crowds  
pp. 15-90 (75 pages) |
| 11/2        |        |                                                 |
| WEEK 7      | Canetti| *Crowds and Power*  
The Pack; The Pack and Religion  
pp. 93-165 (72 pages) |
| 11/9        |        |                                                 |
| WEEK 8      | Canetti| *Crowds and Power*  
The Crowd in History; The Entrails of Power; The Survivor  
pp. 169-278 (109 pages) |
| 11/16       |        |                                                 |
| WEEK 9      | Canetti| *Crowds and Power*  
Elements of Power; The Command,  
pp. 281-384 (103 pages) |
| 11/30       |        |                                                 |
| WEEK 10     | Canetti| *Crowds and Power*  
Transformation; Aspects of Power;  
Rulers and Paranoiacs; Epilogue  
pp. 387-470 (83 pages) |
| 12/7        |        |                                                 |

**DISABILITY INFORMATION**

Student Disability Services (SDS) works to provide resources, support and accommodations for all students with disabilities and works to remove physical and attitudinal barriers, which may prevent their full participation in the University community. Students that would like to request accommodations should contact SDS in advance of the first class meeting at 773.702.6000 or disabilities@uchicago.edu.