I have chosen works that serve as a stimulus for our seminar discussions on the history of racism, violence, war and “ordinary people” in frightful circumstances in the first half of the twentieth century. The selections are historical and literary. Our reading into history does not of course require explanation. However, a word about the use of fiction for our purposes is helpful. Fiction has a capacity to package complicated and ambiguous experiences into forms that require imaginative responses. But while we will be reading works of literature, the point is always to work our way back and forth into the history that inspired a literary statement. The actual style of a literary selection, while always of interest as an indication of its historical provenance, is for our purposes secondary to what we actually learn about the past.

The readings are intimately connected to the morning’s lectures. The two courses are in a symbiotic relationship. Those attending the seminar are therefore expected to sit the morning lectures.

Participants are asked to read the initial assignment before the first meeting of the seminar on Tuesday, January 8. Some of the readings are available in handouts to be obtained from the Fromm staff. Several can be purchased or borrowed from a library. Several are available for tablets.

WEEK ONE: Thomas Mann, *Mario and the Magician* (handout)

WEEK TWO: Cecil Philip Taylor, *Good* (I was able to obtain this play by a Scottish playwright on-line through Apple)

WEEK THREE: George Steiner, excerpt from the *Portage to San Cristobol of A.H.* (handout)


WEEK SIX: Thomas Bernhard, *Heldenplatz* (the edition I have is from Oberon Modern Plays published in 2010, trans. Meredith Oakes and Andrea Tierney. German editions available)
WEEK SEVEN: Stories by Lucille Eichengreen (available as a handout when we reach this point in the seminar)

WEEK EIGHT: Michael Frayn, *Copenhagen* (this play can be purchased in print or online, but is also available in libraries)