Course Information
Classroom: Eggers Hall 018
Class Time: TuTh 5:00-6:20pm

Instructor Information
Office: 332 Eggers
Office Hours: Wed. 10-12pm
E-mail: ddgucorg@syr.edu
Ph. 443-0309

Prerequisites
PSC 123 and sophomore standing highly recommended

Course Description
This is a course in comparative politics designed to provide students with an introduction to the politics of authoritarian regimes. There are two dimensions to this course. The first is theoretical, intended to provide students with a general skillset that can be used to differentiate and study different types of authoritarian systems. The second is comparative and empirical, intended to provide students with an opportunity to apply theory to real cases, both past and present. Throughout the course we will learn about the basic institutional structures of authoritarian regimes, how they differ across cases, as well as the political, economic, and social implications of these institutions on the countries they govern. We will study the authoritarian regime as a distinct form of polity, as an antithesis for democracy, and as a grey area in between those two. Finally, we will consider the authoritarian regime in the context of international relations and international political economy.

Readings
All class readings in this course will be provided on Blackboard, in the “Contents” section (not “Course Reserves”). Some of these readings will come from books. Others will come from journals. While you do not have to purchase any of the books used for class, you are encouraged to acquire them, as we will only have a chance to read small portions. You will, however, have to purchase at least one book to complete the book review requirement, see page 2. You should bring the relevant readings to class each week in case you or someone else refers to a specific argument in one of the texts. All assigned readings should be completed before class meets.

Recommended books:
Assignments and Grading
Regular attendance and participation in class is important for understanding the course material, and required for completing the course with full credit. Lectures and readings will be complementary, but the lectures will cover material that was not in the readings. As a student you are responsible for content covered in both readings and lectures, as exams will draw on both. All assignments turned in by students will be submitted in both physical paper copy and digital to Blackboard’s Turnitin.com submissions bin.

Grading Breakdown
- Quizzes 10%
- Book Review 10%
- Midterm Exam 20%
- Mini-Research Paper 30%
- *Final Exam 30%
*The final exam will be cumulative but will be heavily weighted to post-midterm material.

Quizzes
There will be scheduled quizzes during each regularly scheduled course week. Quizzes will cover assigned readings, not lectures, from the time of the last quiz up to that day. Quizzes cannot be rescheduled, but I will drop your lowest score. No extensions or make-ups will be allowed except for extreme circumstances (medical or family emergency, religious holiday).

Book Review
You will be required to complete a 5-page (double-spaced) review and discussion on one of the following books. Student’s may propose his or her own optional reading alternatives, but must receive clearance from the instructor before proceeding with their book reviews. Book Reviews are due on Thursday December 3rd, before the start of class.

Optional Readings for Book Review
Mini-Research Paper
To complete the course you will be required to submit a final mini-research paper on a research question chosen in collaboration by you and the instructor (maximum of 10 pages, double spaced). In this paper, students will be required to (a) make an analytical argument, (b) synthesize literature related to that argument, (c) collect one primary data source relevant to that argument, (d) interpret that data as evidence for or against your argument. Students must meet with the professor to approve and develop their research arguments no later than Nov. 19th. These meetings will have to be scheduled in advance. The instructor will provide a handout on writing style and data collection sources. Final papers will be due on Sunday December 20th at 5:00pm, before your scheduled exam (physical paper copy, and digital Turnitin.com copy). This paper accounts for 30% of your course grade and will be weighted as follows:

a. Argument 30%
b. Literature Review 20%
c. Data Collection and Description 25%
d. Interpretation: 25%

Academic Integrity
Syracuse University's Academic Integrity Policy holds students accountable for the integrity of the work they submit. Students should be familiar with the policy and know that it is their responsibility to learn about course-specific expectations, as well as about University policy. The University policy governs appropriate citation and use of sources, the integrity of work submitted in exams and assignments, and the veracity of signatures on attendance sheets and other verification of participation in class activities. The policy also prohibits students from submitting the same written work in more than one class without receiving written authorization in advance from both instructors. The presumptive penalty for a first offense by an undergraduate student is course failure, accompanied by a transcript notation indicating that the failure resulted from a violation of Academic Integrity Policy. The standard sanction for a first offense by a graduate student is suspension or expulsion. For more information and the complete policy, see http://academicintegrity.syr.edu.

Disability-Related Accommodations
If you believe that you need accommodations for a disability, please contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), http://disabilityservices.syr.edu, located in Room 309 of 804 University Avenue, or call (315) 443-4498 for an appointment to discuss your needs and the process for requesting accommodations. ODS is responsible for coordinating disability-related accommodations and will issue students with documented disabilities Accommodation Authorization Letters, as appropriate. Since accommodations may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact ODS as soon as possible.

Religious holidays
Syracuse University’s religious observances policy recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holy days according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes. Students have access to an online notification form they can use to notify their instructors, available at: https://myslice.syr.edu.

SU’s Religious Observances policy: http://supolicies.syr.edu/emp_ben/religious_observance.htm
Course Schedule and Readings

Important Dates To Remember
- Oct 22 - Midterm Exam
- Dec 03 - Book Review Due
- Dec 15 - Final Exam
- Dec 20 - Mini-Research Paper Due

Week 1 – Authoritarianism in the study of politics
01-Sep – Course Introduction and Organization
03-Sep – No Class
  - Francis Fukuyama “At the ’End of History' Still Stands Democracy”
  - The Economist. March 1, 2014. “What’s gone wrong with democracy”

Part I – Conceptualizing Authoritarianism

Week 2 – The determinants of autocracy
08-Sep
10-Sep
  - Talk – “China’s Economy in Transition”, Prof. Mary E. Lovely and Dimitar D. Gueorguiev

Week 3 – Regime types
15-Sep
  - Svolik - Chapter 2 - “The World of Authoritarian Politics”
17-Sep

Week 4 – Authoritarian collapse and transitions
22-Sep
24-Sep
  - Goldstone, Jack A. 2011, “Understanding the Revolutions of 2011,” *Foreign Affairs*
Week 5 – Measurement

29-Sep
- Keating, J. 2012. “The Dictator’s Dilemma: To Win with 95 Percent or 99?” *Foreign Policy*

01-Sep

Week 6 – Democracy in Retreat

06-Oct
- Kurlantzick, J. 2013 - Chapter 1 - “Democracy Goes in Reverse”

08-Oct

Part II – Living and governing under authoritarianism

Week 7 – Staying in Power

12-Oct

15-Oct

Week 8 – Leadership

20-Oct

22-Oct
- **Midterm**
Week 9 – Governing under autocracy

27-Oct

29-Oct

Week 10 – Authoritarian Institutions

03-Nov

05-Nov

Week 11 – Domestic and International Political Economy

10-Nov

12-Nov
Part III – Authoritarianism in International Relations

Week 12 – International Relations and Foreign Policy

17-Nov

19-Nov
- *Mini-Research Paper Topic Discussion (please meet with instructor, during office hours, prior to this session to discuss your proposed topic).

Week 13 – Thanksgiving Holiday

Week 14 – Hard and Soft Power

01-Dec
- Kaplan 2014 – Chapter 2 – “China’s Caribbean” in Asia’s Cauldron

03-Dec
- Book Review Due Today

Week 15 – Presentations

08-Dec – Presentations
10-Dec – Presentations

Week 16 – December 15th
- Final Exam (5:15PM - 7:15PM Eggers Hall 018)