

AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES

Political Science 300 – M202

Syracuse University

Prof. Dimitar Gueorguiev

Fall 2015

Course Information

Classroom: Eggers Hall 018

Class Time: TuTh 5:00-6:20pm

Instructor Information

Office: 332 Eggers

Office Hours: Wed. 10-12pm

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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:

- Svobik, Milan W. (2012). *The Politics of Authoritarian Rule*. Cambridge University Press.
- Kurlantzick, Joshua. (2013). *Democracy in Retreat: The Revolt of the Middle Class and the Worldwide Decline of Representative Government*. Yale University Press.
- Gandhi, Jennifer. (2008). *Political Institutions under Dictatorship*. Cambridge University Press.
- Smith, Alastair, Randolph M. Siverson, James D. Morrow, and Bruce Bueno de Mesquita. (2005). *The Logic of Political Survival*. MIT Press.

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

- Constable, P. (1993). *A nation of enemies: Chile under Pinochet.*
- Corrales, J. (2015). *Dragon in the Tropics: Hugo Chavez and the Political Economy of Revolution in Venezuela.*
- Fish, M. S. (2005). *Democracy derailed in Russia: The failure of open politics.*
- Godwin, P. (2011). *When a crocodile eats the sun: A Memoir of Africa.*
- Handley, P. M. (2006) *The king never smiles: a biography of Thailand's Bhumibol Adulyadej.*
- Karsh, E., & Rautsi, I. (1991). *Saddam Hussein: A political biography.* Grove Press.
- Khlevniuk, O. V. (2008). *Master of the House. Stalin and His Inner Circle.*
- Lankov, A. (2013). *The Real North Korea: Life and Politics in the Failed Stalinist Utopia.*
- Magaloni, B. (2006). *Voting for autocracy: Hegemonic party survival and its demise in Mexico.*
- McGregor, R. (2010). *The Party: The Secret World of China's Communist Rulers.*
- Osman, T. (2010). *Egypt on the Brink: from Nasser to Mubarak.*
- Slater, D. (2010). *Ordering power: Contentious politics and authoritarian leviathans in Southeast Asia.*

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”
- Gat, A. 2007. “The Return of Authoritarian Great Powers.” *Foreign Affairs* 86 (4): 59–69

Part I – Conceptualizing Authoritarianism

Week 2 – The determinants of autocracy

08-Sep

- Chapter 2 - “The Causes of Dictatorship” in Ezrow and Frantz. 2011. *Dictators and Dictatorship: Understanding Authoritarian Regimes and Their Leaders*
- Barro, R.J. 1999. “Determinants of Democracy.” *Journal of Political Economy* 107 (S6): 158–183
- Fish, Steven. 2002. “Islam and Authoritarianism,” *World Politics* 55: 4-37.
- Ross, M.L. 2011. “Does Oil Hinder Democracy?” *World Politics* 53 (03): 325–361

10-Sep

- Talk – “China’s Economy in Transition”, Prof. Mary E. Lovely and Dimitar D. Gueorguiev

Week 3 – Regime types

15-Sep

- Svoblik - Chapter 2 - “The World of Authoritarian Politics”
- Geddes, B., E. Frantz, and J.G. Wright. 2014. “Military Rule.” *Annual Review of Political Science* 17 (1): 147–162

17-Sep

- Van de Walle, N. 2002. “Africa’s Range of Regimes.” *Journal of Democracy* 13 (2): 66–80
- Winters, J. 2013. “Oligarchy and Democracy in Indonesia.” *Indonesia* 96: 11–33

Week 4 – Authoritarian collapse and transitions

22-Sep

- Acemoglu and Robinson. 2001. “A Theory of Political Transitions.” *American Economic Review* 91(4): 938–63.
- Gasiorowski, M.J. 1995. “Economic Crisis and Political Regime Change: An Event History Analysis.” *The American Political Science Review* 89 (4): 882

24-Sep

- Goldstone, Jack A. 2011, “Understanding the Revolutions of 2011,” *Foreign Affairs*
- Albrecht, H. 2004. “‘Waiting for Godot’: Regime Change Without Democratization in the Middle East.” *International Political Science Review* 25 (4): 371–392

Week 5 – Measurement

29-Sep

- Clark et al., 2008. - Chapter 5 - “Conceptualizing and Measuring Democracy” in *Principles of Comparative Politics*.
- Chapter 1 - “Democracies and Dictatorships” in Przeworski, Alvarez, Cheibub, and Limongi. 2000. *Democracy and Development: Political Institutions and Well-Being in the World, 1950-1990*.
- Keating, J. 2012. “The Dictator’s Dilemma: To Win with 95 Percent or 99?” *Foreign Policy*

01-Sep

- Zacharia, Fareed. 1997. “The Rise of Illiberal Democracy” *Foreign Affairs*
- Diamond, Larry. 2002. “Thinking about hybrid regimes” *Journal of Democracy*, 13(2): p. 21–35

Week 6 – Democracy in Retreat

06-Oct

- Kurlantzick, J. 2013 - Chapter 1 - “Democracy Goes in Reverse”
- Levitsky, S., and L. Way. 2015. “The Myth of Democratic Recession.” *Journal of Democracy* 26 (1): 45–58
- Drezner, D.W. 2015. “The Most Disturbing Authoritarian Regime in the World.” *Washington Post*

08-Oct

- Corrales, J., and M. Penfold-Becerra. 2007. “Venezuela: Crowding Out the Opposition.” *Journal of Democracy* 18 (2): 99–113
- Kurlantzick, J. 2015. “Thailand: Democratic Failure - Lessons for the Middle East.” *A Markets and Democracy Brief*
- Mietzner, M. 2015. “How Jokowi Won and Democracy Survived.” *Journal of Democracy* 25 (4): 111–125

Part II – Living and governing under authoritarianism

Week 7 – Staying in Power

12-Oct

- “Staying in Power,” in Bruce Bueno de Mesquita and Alastair. 2011. *The Dictator’s Handbook. Why Bad Behavior is Almost Always Good Politics*.
- Gorlizki, Yoram and Khlevniuk, Oleg. 2006. Stalin and his circle. In Ronald G. Suny, editor, *The Cambridge history of Russia, Volume 3*, pages 243–267.

15-Oct

- Diaz-Cayeros, Magaloni, and Weingast. 2003. “Tragic Brilliance: Equilibrium Hegemony and Democratization in Mexico.
- Quinlivan, J.T. 1999. “Coup-Proofing: Its Practice and Consequences in the Middle East.” *International Security* 24 (2): 131–165

Week 8 – Leadership

20-Oct

- Mill, J.S., *Considerations on Representative Government*. Section 3.
- Easterly, W. 2011. “Benevolent Autocrats.” Working Paper. NYU, NBER, BREAD
- Massing, M. 2003. “Does Democracy Avert Famine?” *New York Times*
- Jones, B.F., and B.A. Olken. 2004. “Do Leaders Matter? * National Leadership and Growth since World War II”

22-Oct

- ****Midterm****

Week 9 – Governing under autocracy

27-Oct

- Geddes, B., and J. Zaller. 1989. “Sources of Popular Support for Authoritarian Regimes.” *American Journal of Political Science* 33 (2): 319–347
- Egorov, G., and K. Sonin. 2009. “Dictators and Their Viziers: Endogenizing the Loyalty-Competence Trade-Off.” *Journal of the European Economic Association* 9 (5): 903–930
- Kuran, T. 1997. *Private Truths, Public Lies: The Social Consequences of Preference Falsification*. Harvard University Press

29-Oct

- Nathan, A.J. 2003. “China’s Changing of the Guard Authoritarian Resilience.” *Journal of Democracy* 14 (1): 1–17
- Egorov, G., S. Guriev, and K. Sonin. 2009. “Why Resource-Poor Dictators Allow Freer Media: A Theory and Evidence from Panel Data.” *American Political Science Review* 103 (04): 645

Week 10 – Authoritarian Institutions

03-Nov

- Kricheli, R., Y. Livne, and B. Magaloni. 2011. “Taking to the Streets: Theory and Evidence on Protests under Authoritarianism”
- Brancati, D. 2013. “Democratic Authoritarianism: Origins and Effects.” *Annual Review of Political Science* 17 (1): 313–326

05-Nov

- Reuter, O.J., and G.B. Robertson. 2012. “Subnational Appointments in Authoritarian Regimes: Evidence from Russian Gubernatorial Appointments.” *The Journal of Politics* 74 (04): 1023–1037
- Malesky, E.J., and P.J. Schuler. 2011. “The Single-Party Dictator’s Dilemma: Information in Elections without Opposition.” *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 36 (4): 491–530

Week 11 – Domestic and International Political Economy

10-Nov

- Olson, M. 1993. “Dictatorship, Democracy, and Development.” *The American Political Science Review* 87 (3): 567
- Gehlbach, S., and P. Keefer. 2011. “Investment without Democracy: Ruling-Party Institutionalization and Credible Commitment in Autocracies.” *Journal of Comparative Economics* 39 (2): 123–139

12-Nov

- MacIntyre, Andrew. 2001, “Institutions and Investors: The Politics of the Economic Crisis in Southeast Asia,” *International Organization*, 55: 81–122.

Part III – Authoritarianism in International Relations

Week 12 – International Relations and Foreign Policy

17-Nov

- Mansfield, E.D., H. V. Milner, and B.P. Rosendorff. 2000. “Free to Trade: Democracies, Autocracies, and International Trade.” *American Political Science Review* 94 (02): 305–321
- Clinton, B. 1993. “American Foreign Policy and the Democratic Ideal.” *Orbis* 37 (4): 651–660
- Rosato, S. 2003. “The Flawed Logic of Democratic Peace Theory.” *American Political Science Review* 97 (04): 585–602

19-Nov

- Wintrobe, R. 1990. “The Tinpot and the Totalitarian: An Economic Theory of Dictatorship.” *The American Political Science Review*: 849–872
- Marinov, N. 2005. “Do Economic Sanctions Destabilize Country Leaders?” *American Journal of Political Science* 49 (3): 564–576
- ***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

- Steinberg and Hanlon. 2014. Introduction Chapter in *Strategic Reassurance and Resolve US-China Relations in the Twenty First Century*. pp. 1-16.
- Kaplan 2014 – Chapter 2 – “China’s Caribbean” in *Asia’s Cauldron*

03-Dec

- Nye, J. 2004. “Soft Power and American Foreign Policy.” *Political Science Quarterly* 119 (2): 255–270
- Bräutigam, D. 2011. “Aid ‘With Chinese Characteristics’: Chinese Foreign Aid and Development Finance Meet the OECD-DAC Aid Regime.” *Journal of International Development* 23 (5): 752–764
- 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)