

AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES

POLI 4060, Section 1
Fall 2018

Course location: Allen 019
Course time: MWF, 3:30-4:20

Course instructor: Michael Toje
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Office: Howe-Russell 153B
Hours: MW, 1:30 pm – 3:20 pm
or by appointment

Course Description & Objectives

The post-Cold War era marks the first time that the majority of the world's governments were democratic. However, the norm for the vast majority of human history was rule by a dictatorship in one form or another. This class aims to draw a deeper understanding of the historical, cultural, and political contexts that shape modern authoritarian regimes, past and present. This course, then, will introduce students to concepts, ideas, and theories in the field of authoritarian studies, and their application and practice in the real world. LSU graduates will demonstrate an understanding of the informing factors of global interdependence, including economic forces, political dynamics, and cultural and linguistic difference. The class consists of three parts: the first part explores approaches and rough classifications of authoritarian regimes. The second part examines the policies, preferences, and outcomes of various authoritarian regimes. The third and final part of the class looks at the lifespans of authoritarian regimes, including their continuance and demise, as well as the complicated process of democratization.

Required Textbook:

Brooker, Paul. 2014. *Non-Democratic Regimes*, 3rd ed. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

ISBN: 978-1137305794

Textbooks are available at the Bookstore. Should you find yourself especially fond of the textbook, copies are also available cheaply through online book dealers. Enough changes have been made between the 2nd and 3rd editions that I strongly caution students from relying on older versions of the book.

Course Requirements

The following several components make up the final grade:

- Participation – The class is structured as a seminar. As such, participating in class lectures and discussions in an active and constructive manner is an integral part of this class. Earning participation points in a class you are not regularly attending will be difficult. Participation will make up 15% of your overall score.
- Reaction papers – Students will write three assessments, 6-8 pages per paper, for each of the three class sections. These papers are to be critical analyses that investigate a question raised by the readings and/or in class, and supplemented by additional sources. Grades for reaction paper will be 10% apiece, for a total of 30% of your overall grade
- Midterm exam – One in-class exam will be given during the course, encompassing the material covered in the first half of class. The midterm exam will be worth 25% of your overall score.
- Final Exam - The course will have a final exam that covers material from the second half of the class. The final exam will be worth 30% of your overall grade.

Final Grades

A+	100-97		B+	89.9-87		C+	79.9-77		D+	69.9-67		F	< 60
A	96.9-93		B	86.9-83		C	76.9-73		D	66.9-63			
A-	92.9-90		B-	82.9-80		C-	72.9-70		D-	62.9-60			

Assignment Policy

The instructor reserves the right to change the listed assignments. Students will receive a revised syllabus if the listing of course assignments changes.

Attendance Policy

Class attendance is the responsibility of the student, and each student is expected to attend all classes. Any student who finds it necessary to miss class assumes responsibility for making up examinations, obtaining lecture notes, and otherwise compensating for what the student may have missed from class. The instructor will determine the validity of a student's reason(s) for any absences and will assist those students who have valid reasons and documentation.

Valid documentable reasons for absences include:

1. Illness
2. Serious family emergency
3. Special curricular requirements such as judging trips or field trips
4. Court-imposed legal obligations such as subpoenas or jury duty
5. Military obligations
6. Serious weather conditions
7. Religious observances

Disability Code

The Office of Disability Services assists students in identifying and developing accommodations and services to help overcome barriers to the achievement of personal and academic goals. Services are available for students with temporary or permanent disabilities. Accommodations and services are based on the individual student's disability-based need. Students must provide current documentation of their disabilities. Students should contact the office early to arrange the necessary accommodations. ~ LSU General Catalog

Late Work

Please avoid turning in late work. I realize life happens and that you may not always be able to submit your work on time. I will accept one unexcused late assignment at a deduction of 10% for each day it is late. Any additional unexcused late assignments will receive a deduction of 20% for each day they are late. An assignment is late when an assignment is not available, or incomplete, on the date it is due.

Academic Integrity

LSU set high academic and personal standards for its students when it adopted the Commitment to Community guidelines in 1995. All students are expected to read and familiarize themselves with the LSU Code of Student Conduct (especially Sec. 10) to know both what is expected from them and of the consequences for any offences. For more specifics, see the following website:

<https://www.lsu.edu/saa/>

Plagiarism and Citation Method

As a student at LSU, your responsibility is to refrain from plagiarizing another's academic property. To this end, you must utilize an appropriate citation method for all coursework. Ignorance of a citation method is no excuse for academic misconduct. One tool available to assist you in correct citations is the references function in Microsoft Word. This program automatically formats the information you input according to the citation method you select for the document. This program also has the ability to generate a reference or works cited page for the information you input. The version of Microsoft Word with these added features is available in most University computer labs.

Expectations of Written Work

All papers are to be college-level papers. This means that they are to be typed, spell-checked and edited, well written with a logical flow of thought, and correctly cited. LSU's Communication across the Curriculum center is a terrific resource for help with writing papers.

Group Work and Unauthorized Assistance

Each student must complete all work without assistance from a classmate or group, unless stated explicitly by the instructor so that the instructor can assess individual performance on each assignment. If the students have a group- or partner-based project assigned, each student may still have individual work to complete. Read the syllabus and assignment directions carefully. When in doubt, e-mail the instructor or ask during class. Seeking clarification is the sole responsibility of the student. Assuming group or partner based work is acceptable without permission constitutes a violation of the LSU Code of Student Conduct.

Special notices

1. Please do not use cellphones during class time. Laptops and tablets are permissible for taking notes in class, though students should take note of the growing body of literature that indicates that students who use longhand note-taking actually remember and understand more compared to students who relied on their computers or on online lectures (*The Scientific American*).

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/a-learning-secret-don-t-take-notes-with-a-laptop/>

2. If students have a simple question that could have been answered by reading the syllabus, I will charge students one quarter, dropped into my coffee mug, for answering. I will be lenient on what constitutes a "simple question," but do keep this penalty in mind. This fine does not apply to questions about or clarifications of the syllabus, or of course for any question, comment or concern regarding anything outside the syllabus.

Important Semester Dates

Aug 28 (Tuesday) – Final date for dropping courses without receiving a grade of "W"

Aug 29 (Wednesday) – Final date for adding courses for credit and making section changes

Sep 3 (Monday) – Labor Day holiday

Oct 4 – Fall holiday begins

Nov 2 (Friday) – Final date for rescheduling final exam dates, and for dropping classes

Nov 21 (Wednesday) – Thanksgiving holiday

Nov 28 – Dec 2 (Wednesday – Sunday) – Concentrated Study Period

Dec 3-8 (Monday – Saturday) – Final Exam Week

Course Schedule and Reading Assignments

Part 1: Regime Types

Week 1, Aug. 20-24: Syllabus; Conceptualizing Democracy and Dictatorship

Read: Svobik, Milan. 2013. "Incentives, Institutions, and the Challenges to Research on Authoritarian Politics." *APSA Comparative Democratization Newsletter*.

Przeworski, Adam. 1999. "Minimalist Conception of Democracy: A Defense." In *Democracy's Value*, eds. Ian Shapiro and Casiano Hacker-Cordón. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Week 2, Aug. 27-31: Theories and Classifications

Read: Brooker, ch. 1

Friedrich, Carl J., and Zbigniew K. Brzezinski. 1965. *Totalitarian Dictatorship and Autocracy*. New York: Frederick A. Praeger Publishers.

Kaufman Purcell, Susan. 1973. "Decision-Making in an Authoritarian Regime: Theoretical Implications from a Mexican Case Study." *World Politics* 26 (1): 28–54.

Week 3, Sep. 5-7: Monarchical and Personalist Authoritarianism

Read: Brooker, ch. 2

Gill, Graeme. 1984. "Personality Cult, Political Culture, and Party Structure." *Studies in Comparative Communism* XVII (2): 111–21.

Yom, Sam L., and F. Gregory Gause III. 2012. "Resilient Royals: How Arab Monarchies Hang On." *Journal of Democracy* 23 (4): 74–88.

Week 4, Sep. 10-14: Military Authoritarianism

Read: Brooker, ch. 3

Dix, Robert H. 1994. "Military Coups and Military Rule in Latin America." *Armed Forces & Society* 20 (3): 439–56.

Bünthe, Marco. 2014. "Burma's Transition to Quasi-Military Rule: From Rulers to Guardians?" *Armed Forces & Society* 40 (4): 742–64.

Week 5, Sep. 17-21: Single-Party Authoritarianism

Read: Brooker, ch. 4

Magaloni, Beatriz, and Ruth Kricheli. 2010. "Political Order and One-Party Rule." *Annual Review of Political Science* 13: 123–43.

Smith, Benjamin. 2005. "Life of the Party: The Origins of Regime Breakdown and Persistence under Single-Party Rule." *World Politics* 57 (3): 421–51.

Part 2: Regime Features

Week 6, Sep. 24-28: Consolidation, Legitimacy, and Control

Read: Brooker, ch. 5

Gandhi, Jennifer, and Ellen Lust-Okar. 2009. "Elections under Authoritarianism." *Annual Review of Political Science* 12: 403–22.

Frantz, Erica, and Andrea Kendall-Taylor. 2014 "A Dictator's Toolkit: Understanding How Co-optation Affects Repression in Autocracies." *Journal of Peace Research* 51 (3): 332–46.

*Paper #1 due Sunday, Sep. 30 at 6:00 a.m.

Week 7, Oct. 1-3: Midterm review and exam

No reading assigned for this week

Week 8, Oct. 8-12: Non-Democratic Governance

Read: Brooker, ch. 6

Gandhi, Jennifer, and Adam Przeworski. 2007. "Authoritarian Institutions and the Survival of Autocrats." *Comparative Political Studies* 40 (11): 1279–301.

Malesky, Edmund, and Paul Schuler. 2010. "Nodding or Needling: Analyzing Delegate Responsiveness in an Authoritarian Parliament." *American Political Science Review* 104 (3): 482–502.

Week 9, Oct. 15-19: Political Economy under Authoritarianism

Read: Przeworski, Adam, and Fernando Limongi. 1993. "Political Regimes and Economic Growth." *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 7 (3): 51–69.

Ilkhamov, Alisher. 2007. "Neopatrimonialism, Interest Groups and Patronage Networks: The Impasses of the Governance System in Uzbekistan." *Central Asian Survey* 26 (1): 65–84.

Hankla, Charles R. and Daniel Kuthy. 2013. "Economic Liberalism in Illiberal Regimes: Authoritarian Variation and the Political Economy of Trade." *International Studies Quarterly* 57 (3): 492–504.

Week 10, Oct. 22-26: Governance and State-Building

Read: Brooker, ch. 7

Reuter, Ora John. 2013. "Regional Patrons and Hegemonic Party Electoral Performance in Russia." *Post-Soviet Affairs* 29 (2): 101–35.

Svolik, Milan. 2012. "Contracting on Violence: The Moral Hazard in Authoritarian Repression and Military Intervention in Politics." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 57 (5): 765–94.

Part 3: Regime Longevity and Transitions

Week 11, Oct. 29-Nov 2: Succession

Read: Herz, John H. 1952. "The Problem of Successorship in Dictatorial Régimes: A Study in Comparative Law and Institutions." *The Journal of Politics* 14 (1): 19–40.

Brownlee, Jason. 2007. "Hereditary Succession in Modern Autocracies." *World Politics* 59 (4): 595–628.

Ma, Xiao. 2016. "Term Limits and Authoritarian Power Sharing: Theory and Evidence from China." *Journal of East Asian Studies* 16: 61–85.

*Paper #2 due Sunday, Oct. 27 at 6:00 a.m.

Week 12, Nov. 5-9: Semi-Authoritarianism

Read: Brooker, ch. 8

Carothers, Thomas. 2002. "The End of the Transition Paradigm." *Journal of Democracy* 13 (1): 5–21.

Schedler, Andreas. 2002. "The Menu of Manipulation." *Journal of Democracy* 13 (2): 36–50.

Week 13, Nov. 12-16: Democratization and Transition

Read: Brooker, ch. 8

Debs, Alexandre. 2016. "Living by the Sword and Dying by the Sword? Leadership Transitions in and out of Dictatorships." *International Studies Quarterly* 60: 73–84.

Zielinski, Jakub. 1999. "Transitions from Authoritarian Rule and the Problem of Violence." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 43 (2): 213–28.

Week 14, Nov. 19: Rational Choice and Selectorate Theory

Read: Kennedy, Ryan. 2009. "Survival and Accountability: An Analysis of the Empirical Support for "Selectorate Theory." *International Studies Quarterly* 53: 695-714.

Week 15, Nov. 26-30: Democracy's Decline?

Foa, Roberto Stefan, and Yascha Mounk. 2016. "The Democratic Disconnect." *Journal of Democracy* 27 (3): 5-17.

Levitsky, Steven, and Lucan Way. 2015. "The Myth of Democratic Recession." *Journal of Democracy* 26 (1): 45–58.

Nathan, Andrew J. 2015. "The Authoritarian Resurgence: China's Challenge." *Journal of Democracy* 26 (1): 156–70.

*Paper #3 due Sunday, Dec. 9 at 6:00 a.m.

Thursday, Dec. 6, 5:30-7:30 pm: Final Examination