COURSE DESCRIPTION

Non-democratic government, whether by elders, chiefs, monarchs, aristocrats, empires, military regimes, and one-party state, has been the norm for most of human history. As late as the 1970, non-democratic governments were more common than democracy. With the most recent spread of democracy, the post-1990 wave, democracies have come to outnumber the authoritarian regimes; yet, about 40% of the world’s governments remain authoritarian.

This course explores the characteristics and dynamics of non-democratic regimes in two distinct sections:

- First, we will define our concepts, and highlight trends, data, mechanisms, practices and consequences of authoritarian regimes.
- Second, we will cover different types of authoritarianism and their (distinct) characteristics. We will cover military, sultanistic/personalistic, single-party, and hybrid regimes throughout the weeks.

Using films, news items, and scholarly articles, you will be able to achieve the following:

1. Gain a firm understanding of different conceptual distinctions among authoritarian regimes and between non-democracies and democracies
2. Understand how authoritarian leaders take, transfer, and exercise power
3. Be exposed to several modern examples of authoritarian regimes
Course materials

There is one required textbook, available through the UF bookstore.

- Steven Levitsky and Lucan Way, *Competitive Authoritarianism: Hybrid Regimes after the Cold War*, Cambridge University Press
- Additional readings will be available through ‘e-Learning in Sakai’

STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL MATERIALS COVERED IN LECTURES, READINGS, HANDOUTS, & POSTINGS ON THE COURSE WEBSITE.

- **E-Learning in SAKAI** You should become familiar with ‘e-Learning in Sakai’. All electronic materials assigned as readings (articles and book chapters) will be posted here, as well as power point slides for the class. In addition, ALL GRADES will be posted here too.

Course requirements

1. **Class Attendance and Participation 10%**
2. **Quiz: The Geography of Authoritarianism 5%**
3. **2 short term reaction papers & presentations for scholarly articles 20%**
4. **3 film review s 15%**
5. **2 in-class tests 50%**

Class attendance and participation 10%

- I will lecture briefly, but most of the class will be spent discussing the readings. Everyone should have something to say in every class. If you don’t understand something in the readings, say so. Come with questions and topics for debate.
- Attendance is mandatory. Our class is very small and your absences will be noticed.
- Complete the readings before the dates listed on the syllabus.

Quiz 5%

- In order to engage with this course material, it is important to have a firm grasp of the subject matter.

2 short term reaction papers (2-4 pages each) 20%

- Over the course of the semester, you will write and present two reactions papers on a scholarly article of your choice (from the syllabus)
- The papers have 3 components:
  1. Sum up the argument
  2. An evaluation and a critique of the argument. Does the argument make sense? Why/why not? Does one of the other readings offer a contradictory argument?
  3. Conclude with discussion questions for the class.
3 film reviews 15%

- After viewing each film, you will receive a series of questions that should be addressed in an essay-format (2-3 pages)

2 in-class tests 50%. The second test is non-cumulative.

Policies of the course

1. Assignments:
   a. All assignments must be submitted BY THE DEADLINE and following ALL instructions.
   b. Extensions will be granted at my discretion and, if granted, they will require proper documentation. Make sure you ask for an extension only PRIOR (at least 24 hours) to the deadline date.

2. Cheating/plagiarism: DON’T. Any student caught violating the honor code will fail the class. For more information, read the Code of Student Conduct http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcode.php

3. Courtesy: Don’t come late and turn off your cell-phones. Any disruptive behavior (reading newspapers or materials related to other courses, talking outside of class discussions) will not be tolerated and you will be asked to leave the class.

4. Special Needs: If you have a disability that requires special arrangements (e.g. note- and/or test-taking), please register with UF’s Office of Students with Disabilities and contact me within the first week of class. Every effort will be made to accommodate those with registered disabilities.

Grading scale: (http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html):

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COURSE SCHEDULE

I. What is Authoritarianism? Concepts, Trends, and Consequences

Week 1: January 7-9
T: Course Introduction and Setting the Objectives
Th: What is an authoritarian regime?
   Schumpeter, Joseph. 1943, *Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy*, Chapters 21 & 22 (E-Learning)
Week 2: January 14-16 Classical and Post-Cold War trends and data (1)

Francis Fukuyama, “The End of History?” (E-learning)

Week 3: January 21-23 Classical and Post-Cold War trends and data (2)

http://www.freedomhouse.org/sites/default/files/FIW%202013%20Booklet_0.pdf
http://www.freedomhouse.org/sites/default/files/Map%20of%20Freedom%202013%2C%20final.pdf
(Familiarize yourself with the maps and charts in these booklets)


Week 4: January 28-30 Taking, Transferring, and Maintaining Power

T: Quiz! The Geography of Authoritarianism


Documentary: The Cult of Personality (DVD 2833) On reserve

Week 5: February 4-6 Making Autocracy Work


Week 6: February 11-13 Authoritarianism’s Consequences.

II. **Types and Practices of Authoritarianism**

**Week 7: February 18-20 Military Regimes**


**Week 8: February 25-27 Single-Party Regimes**


**Thursday: In-class test**

**Week 10 March 11-13 Making it Work in North Korea**


Sung-Yoon Lee, “The Boy who would be king: Can Kim III Last?”

(http://www.nbr.org/research/activity.aspx?id=194#.Ustu7rTc18E )


**Documentary: North Korea. Secret Nation (DVD 2197) On reserve**

**Week 11 March 18-20 Making it Work in China**


**Documentary: China from the Inside, Part 1: Power and the People (DVD: 7169) On reserve**
Week 12: March 25-27 Sultanistic Regimes

H.E. Chehabi and Juan Linz, editors, *Sultanistic Regimes*, pp. 3-84. (E-Learning)
Case Studies of Sultanism: The Pahlavi Regime in Iran

Week 13: April 1-3 Islam and Authoritarianism

2 readings to be added (TBA)

Week 14: April 8-10 Hybrid Regimes. The gray area between democracies and authoritarianism


Week 15: April 15-17 Dealing with Dictatorships

Nail Ferguson. There are two kinds of dictator: ours and theirs. Ours are better’ Sunday Telegraph, Dec 17, 2006. (http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/personal-view/3635377/There-are-two-kinds-of-dictator-ours-and-theirs.-Ours-are-better.html)
Documentary: The Debt of Dictators (DVD 2792) On reserve

Week 16: April 22 Coping with the Legacy of Dictatorship

Documentary: Al Jazeera World. Romania: The Spectre of Tyranny
http://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/aljazeeraworld/2012/10/2012108112728441748.html

A Romanian journalist discovers that the dictatorship of the past still casts an influence over people's lives today.
http://youtu.be/M-mOV-JLH7E

***April 29: In-class final test during the final evaluation week.