

Politics of Authoritarianism
CPO 4053 Fall 2019
Classroom: MAT 0016
Time: M,W,F Period 2 (8:30 AM - 9:20 AM)

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Office Hours:
Monday 10:00 am - 11:30 am
Wednesday 10:00 am - 11:30 am
Or by appointment

Introduction

After some scholars predicted in the 1990s “the end of history” where liberal democracy would triumph all over the world, authoritarian regimes in different regions continue to demonstrate their resilience and durability. This course is designed to explore the causes and mechanisms behind the survival of authoritarian regimes, including those led by communist parties, monarchs, and hybrid autocracies, etc. We will spend significant amount of time in analyzing the sources of durable authoritarianism around the world. Our analyses will draw evidence from in-depth case studies, comparisons of a few regimes, as well as large-scale statistical analysis of cross-national trends in authoritarian politics.

Course Pre-requisite

CPO 2001: Comparative Politics

Course Goals and Student Learning Outcomes

This course is both a topical course and an upper division course in the political science major. As such, this course emphasizes critical thinking and critical reading. In addition to developing skills to effectively study authoritarian regimes, you will also acquire analytical tools that would be helpful in different possible careers. By the end of the course, you should be able to:

- (1) Distinguish different types of authoritarian regimes conceptually;
- (2) Understand how different types of authoritarian regimes operate in theory and justify the classification of specific regimes with empirical evidence;
- (3) Explain why some authoritarian regimes are more or less durable than others, with evidence drawn from empirical cases;

- (4) Analyze statistical data with basic tools, including the ways to illustrate important aspects of authoritarian regimes to non-specialists;
- (5) Equip with the tools to develop and answer important research questions regarding authoritarianism.

To achieve our goals, the course requires *significant amount of reading and workload* as well as *active participation and engagement*. In order to do well in this course, you must critically engage all of the assigned readings and come to class prepared. We will discuss in detail about this requirement in class, but feel free to discuss any assignments or readings with me in my office.

Course Requirements

There will be ***four in-class assessment quizzes*** throughout the semester, each worth 10% of your final grade. There will be no make-up quizzes, except in cases where the student can demonstrate a university excused absence (see below).

There will be ***a take-home mid-term*** worth 15% of the final grade. The mid-term exam will ask you to use basic statistical tools to analyze a dataset.

A take-home final, worth 30% of your grade, will be a short research paper. This paper will demonstrate your ability to fulfill the objectives of this course. You are required to submit a one-page (single-spaced) proposal (5%) and discuss it with me in office (5%). The final paper (20%) should be 15-20 pages double-spaced, 12-point font with 1 inch margins, excluding any references, tables, or figures. You can choose from the following options or discuss alternative plans with me during office hours:

- (1) Research Proposal: Develop a research question about one aspect of authoritarian regimes and design a research strategy for answering this question. You should provide a clear justification for utilizing certain methodologies in addressing the question;
- (2) Case Study: Classify a specific case of authoritarian rule based on what you learn in this course. Explain whether this regime is durable or democratizing and the causes behind it, or how this regime utilizes certain institutions for authoritarian means (e.g. parties, legislatures, courts, militaries, etc.).

All written assignments, except for in-class quizzes, will be submitted electronically via Canvas prior to the deadline.

Active participation is very important in achieving the learning outcome in this course. ***Participation*** will be worth 10% of the final grade. Students who rarely or never contribute will earn zero points, and students who have clearly prepared

for every class meeting and contribute actively to discussion will earn the full ten points.

Attendance will constitute 5% of your final grade.

Grade Distribution

Assignment	Points
Quizzes (four times)	40%
Midterm	15%
Final paper proposal	5%
Final paper discussion	5%
Final paper	20%
Participation	10%
Attendance	5%

Your final cumulative score will be translated into a letter grade according to the following scale: 93 points or higher = A; 90–92.9 = A-; 87–89.9 = B+; 83–86.9 = B; 80–82.9 = B-; 77–79.9 = C+; 73–76.9 = C; 70–72.9 = C-; 67–69.9 = D+; 63–66.9 = D; 60–62.9 = D-; <60 = E.

Class Attendance

Students are expected to attend class, arrive on time, and treat one another with respect. The course is designed to require regular attendance if you hope to succeed. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

Students Requiring Accommodations

This class complies with the University of Florida's requirements for accommodations for students with disabilities. Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Academic Misconduct and Plagiarism

Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>. Students should pay close attention to sections outlining plagiarism and cheating. All submitted work should properly cite references using the student's preferred citation format. Any use of another person's work should be presented with quotations or paraphrased, and include reference to the author, work, and page number. Note that copying from your own papers previously submitted in other classes counts as plagiarism.

Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1: Introduction

August 21:

Course overview and introduction

August 23:

Linz, Juan J. 2000. "Introduction" in *Totalitarian and Authoritarian Regimes*. Boulder: Lynne Reinner, 49-63.

Svolik, Milan. 2012. "Introduction: The Anatomy of Dictatorship" in *The Politics of Authoritarian Rule*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1-18.

Week 2: The Third Wave of Democratization

August 26:

Huntington, Samuel P. 1993. "Chapter 1: What?" in *The Third Wave: Democratization in the Late Twentieth Century*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 3-30.

August 28:

Fukuyama, Francis. 1989. "The End of History?" *The National Interest* 16: 3-18. <http://www.wesjones.com/eoh.htm>.

August 30:

Geddes, Barbara. 1999. "What Do We Know About Democratization After Twenty Years?" *Annual Review of Political Science* 2, 115-144.

Week 3: Authoritarian Adaptation

September 2: Holiday (Labor Day), No Class

September 4:

Diamond, Larry. 2002. "Elections Without Democracy: Thinking About Hybrid Regimes." *Journal of Democracy* 13, No. 2 (April): 21-35.

September 6:

Levitsky, Steven, and Lucan Way. 2006. "Linkage versus Leverage: Rethinking the International Dimensions of Regime Change." *Comparative Politics* 38, No. 4: 379-400.

Week 4: Competitive Authoritarianism

September 9:

Levitsky, Steven, and Lucan Way. 2002. "The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism." *Journal of Democracy* 13, No. 2 (April): 51-65.

September 11:

Levitsky, Steven, and Lucan Way. 2010. "Introduction & Appendix 1: Measuring Competitive Authoritarianism and Authoritarian Stability" in *Competitive Authoritarianism: Hybrid Regimes After the Cold War*. New York: Cambridge: 3-36, 365-371.

Discussion: Pick a case of hybrid regime and compare it in class with other types of authoritarian regimes (military, personalist, one-party, etc.).

September 13: **Quiz 1**

Week 5: Authoritarian Parties

September 16:

Brownlee, Jason. 2007. "Conclusions" in *Authoritarianism in an Age of Democratization*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 202-222.

September 18:

Levitsky, Steven, and Lucan A. Way. 2013. "The Durability of Revolutionary Regimes." *Journal of Democracy* 24, No. 3 (July): 5-17.

Levitsky, Steven, and Lucan A. Way. 2012. "Beyond Patronage: Violent Struggle, Ruling Party Cohesion, and Authoritarian Durability." *Perspectives on Politics* 10, No. 4 (December): 869-889.

September 20:

Dimitrov, Martin K. eds. 2013. "Chapter 1: Understanding Communist Collapse and Resilience" in *Why Communism Did Not Collapse: Understanding Authoritarian Regime Resilience in Asia and Europe*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 3-39.

Week 6: Authoritarian Legislatures

September 23:

Gandhi, Jennifer, and Adam Przeworski. 2007. "Authoritarian Institutions and the Survival of Autocrats." *Comparative Political Studies* 40, No. 11: 1279-1301.

September 25:

Blaydes, Lisa. 2011. "Chapter 3: Elections and Elite Management" in *Elections and Distributive Politics in Mubarak's Egypt*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 48-63.

September 27: **Quiz 2**

Week 7: Elections Under Authoritarianism

September 30:

Schedler, Andreas. 2002. "Elections Without Democracy: The Menu of Manipulation." *Journal of Democracy* 13, No. 2: 36-50.

October 2:

Gandhi, Jennifer. 2015. "Elections and Political Regimes." *Government and Opposition* 50, 3: 446-468.

October 4: Homecoming, No Class

Final paper proposal due on October 5 at 5 pm (Discussion of the proposal should be scheduled within two weeks)

Week 8: Cross-National Statistical Analysis

October 7:

Geddes, Barbara, Joseph Wright, and Erica Frantz. 2014. "Autocratic Breakdown and Regime Transitions: A New Data Set." *Perspectives on Politics* 12, No. 2: 313-331.

October 9: Computer Lab Meeting 1

October 11: Computer Lab Meeting 2

Week 9: Authoritarianism in the Middle East

October 14:

Fish, M. Steven. 2002. "Islam and Authoritarianism." *World Politics* 55, No. 1 (October): 4-37.

October 16:

Andersen, Jorgen, and Michael Ross. 2013. "The Big Oil Change." *Comparative Political Studies* 47, No. 7: 993-1021.

October 18: No Class, Work on Mid-term Exam

Mid-term due on October 20 at 6 pm

Week 10: The Arab Spring and Its Aftermath

October 21:

Howard, Philip N. and Muzammil M. Hussain. 2013. "Chapter 1" in *Democracy's Fourth Wave?: Digital Media and the Arab Spring*. New York: Oxford University Press, 17-34.

Zakaria, Fareed. 2011. "Why There's No Turning Back in the Middle East." *Time Magazine*.

<http://content.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,2050032,00.html>

Himelfarb, Sheldon, and Sean Aday. 2014. "Media That Moves Millions." *Foreign Policy*.
http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2014/01/17/media_moves_millions_social_ukraine_twitter.

October 23:

"The Arab Winter." *Economist*. <https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2016/01/09/the-arab-winter>.

October 25:

Brownlee, Jason, Tarek Masoud, and Andrew Reynolds. 2015. "Introduction and Chapter 1" in *The Arab Spring: Pathways of Repression and Reform*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1-39.

Week 11: Authoritarianism in East Asia

October 28:

Saxonberg, Steven. 2013. "Introduction" in *Transitions and Non-Transitions from Communism: Regime Survival in China, Cuba, North Korea, and Vietnam*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1-39.

October 30:

King, Gary, Jennifer Pan, and Margaret Roberts. 2013. "How Censorship in China Allows Government Criticism but Silences Collective Expression." *American Political Science Review* 107, No. 2: 326-343.

"The Rise of Digital Authoritarianism." Freedom House.
https://freedomhouse.org/sites/default/files/FOTN_2018_Final%20Booklet_11_1_2018.pdf.

November 1: Quiz 3

Week 12: Political Economy of Authoritarianism

November 4:

Przeworski, Adam, and Fernando Limongi. 1997. "Modernization: Theories and Facts." *World Politics* 49, No. 2: 155-183.

November 6:

Dickson, Bruce J. 2008. "Introduction" in *Wealth into Power: The Communist Party's Embrace of China's Private Sector*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1-31.

November 8:

Collier, Paul. 2007. "Chapter 3: The Natural Resource Trap" in *The Bottom Billion*. New York: Oxford University Press, 38-52.

Smith, Benjamin. 2007. "Introduction" in *Hard Times in the Lands of Plenty*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1-14.

Week 13: Pathways to Democracy

November 11: Holiday (Veterans Day), No Class

November 13:

Hadenius, Axel and Jan Teorell. 2006. "Authoritarian Regimes: Stability, Change and Pathways to Democracy, 1972-2003." Kellogg Institute. Working Paper.

November 15:

Discussion: Pick a case of authoritarian regime and compare it with other types of regimes classified by Hadenius and Teorell. What makes them so different, and how can these differences help us explain their durability or fragility?

Week 14: Authoritarianism and Resistance

November 18:

Patel, David Siddhartha. 2013. "Preference Falsification, Revolutionary Coordination, and The Tahrir Square Model." *The Annual Proceedings of the Wealth and Well-Being of Nations* 4: 61-71.

November 20:

Mickey, Robert. 2015. "Southern Political Development in Comparative Perspective" in *Paths Out of Dixie: The Democratization of Authoritarian Enclaves in America's Deep South, 1944-1972*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 3-32.

November 22: **Quiz 4**

Recommended: *1987: When the Day Comes* (Movie)

Week 15: Autocratization

November 25:

Levitsky, Steven, and Daniel Ziblatt. 2018. *How Democracies Die*. New York: Broadway Books, 1-10.

Lührmann, Anna, and Staffan I. Lindberg. 2019. "A third wave of autocratization is here: what is new about it?" *Democratization*: 1-19.

Discussion: Pick a case of democratic regime that is undergoing autocratization and discuss the causes and symptoms of this trend.

November 27 & 29: Holiday (Thanksgiving)

Week 16: Conclusion

December 2: Conclusion and Discussion

December 4: No Class, Work on Final Paper

Final Paper Due on December 4 at 5 pm