
AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES
Special Topics in Comparative Politics
Political Science 7971

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a graduate-level seminar focusing on various aspects of contemporary non-democratic regimes, such regimes constituting roughly half of the countries of the world. While labeled generically as “authoritarian” regimes, these non- or pseudo-democracies take various forms, and have different political goals, different administrative styles, and different attitudes toward the societies they seek to govern. The seminar readings seek to reflect this diversity within authoritarian regimes and to provide a useful introduction to literature in this sub-field.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Each student’s semester grade will be determined on the basis of three tasks, detailed below.

- [1] Research paper: weighted at 40 percent of the course grade. This paper is to be modeled on a typical conference paper. The paper can focus on any aspect of authoritarianism, but must seek to make a contribution to an extant scholarly debate in the literature. It must be fully cited and written to professional standards. Topics must be cleared by the instructor. This paper is due no later than Thursday, December 1.
- [2] Weekly reaction papers: weighted at a combined 40 percent of the course grade. In a maximum of three double-spaced typed pages each, these weekly papers should focus on issues of interest (problems, debates, inconsistencies, consequences, etc) that emerge from the week’s readings. Papers should be fully cited. Papers are due the morning of each seminar.
- [3] In-class performance: weighted at 20 percent of the course grade. Everyone is expected to come to class well prepared, and to have that preparation reflected in their contribution to seminar discussions. Attendance at each of the thirteen seminar sessions is mandatory.

TEXTS

The following six books are required for the course. Additional article- and chapter-length readings will be posted on the course Moodle site.

Paul Brooker (2009). Non-Democratic Regimes: Theory, Government and Politics (Palgrave Macmillan)
PB 978-0230202757

Jennifer Gandhi (2010). Political Institutions under Dictatorship (Cambridge University Press). PB 978-0521155717

Steven Levitsky and Lucan A. Way (2010). Competitive Authoritarianism: Hybrid Regimes after the Cold War (Cambridge University Press). PB 978-0521709156

Andreas Schedler, ed. (2006). Electoral Authoritarianism: The Dynamics of Unfree Competition (Lynne Rienner Publishers). PB 978-1-58826-440-4

Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson (2009). Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy (Cambridge University Press). PB 978-0521671422

Kenneth F. Greene (2009). Why Dominant Parties Lose: Mexico's Democratization in Comparative Perspective (Cambridge University Press). PB 978-0521139892

● Students seeking reference to foundational works in this field should consider the following texts; they are not required for the course.

Hannah Arendt (1956). "Authority in the Twentieth Century," Review of Politics, vol. 18, no. 4: 403-417.

Hannah Arendt (1951). The Origins of Totalitarianism (Schocken Books).

Carl J. Friedrich and Zbigniew Brzezinski (1956). Totalitarian Dictatorship and Autocracy (Harvard University Press).

Juan Linz (2000). Totalitarian and Authoritarian Regimes (Lynne Rienner Press).

Samuel P. Huntington and Clement H. Moore, eds. (1970). Authoritarian Politics in Modern Society (Basic Books).

TOPICS AND SYLLABUS OF READINGS

1. August 25 Introduction to the Course

2: September 1 Overview of Non-Democratic Regimes

Paul Brooker (2000). Non-Democratic Regimes: Theory, Government & Politics (St. Martin's Press).

S. Kaufman Purcell (1973). "Authoritarianism: A Review Essay," Comparative Politics, vol. 5, no. 2: 301-312.

3: September 8 Authoritarian Regime Types (part 1)

Guillermo O'Donnell (1988). "Theoretical and Historical Background to the Study of the Bureaucratic-Authoritarian State," pp. 1-38 in O'Donnell, Bureaucratic Authoritarianism : Argentina, 1966-1973, in Comparative Perspective (University of California Press).

Hector E. Schamis (1991). "Reconceptualizing Latin American Authoritarianism in the 1970s: From Bureaucratic Authoritarianism to Neoconservatism," Comparative Politics, vol. 23, no. 2: 201-220.

H. E. Chehabi and Juan J. Linz (1998). "A Theory of Sultanism 1: A Type of Nondemocratic Rule," pp. 3-25 in Chehabi and Linz, Sultanistic Regimes (Johns Hopkins University Press).

Steven M. Eke and Taras Kuzio (2000). "Sultanism in Eastern Europe: The Socio-Political Roots of Authoritarian Populism in Belarus," Europe-Asia Studies, vol. 52, no. 3: 523-547.

Steven A. Cook (2007). "The Logic of Regime Stability," pp. 1-31 of Cook, Ruling But Not Governing: The Military and Political Development in Egypt, Algeria, and Turkey (Johns Hopkins University Press).

Guillermo O'Donnell (1994). "Delegative Democracy," Journal of Democracy, vol. 5, no. 1: 55-69.

Steven Levitsky and Lucan A. Way (2002). "The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism," Journal of Democracy, vol. 12, no. 2: 51-65.

4. September 15 Authoritarian Regime Types (part 2)

Amos Perlmutter (1980). "The Comparative Analysis of Military Regimes: Formations, Aspirations, and Achievements," World Politics, vol. 33, no. 1: 96-120.

Karen L. Remmer (1989). "Neopatrimonialism: The Politics of Military Rule in Chile, 1973-1987," Comparative Politics, vol. 21, no. 2: 149-170.

Victor T. Le Vine (1980). "African Patrimonial Regimes in Comparative Perspective," Journal of Modern African Studies, vol. 18, no. 4: 657-673.

Robert H. Jackson and Carl G. Rosberg (1984). "Personal Rule: Theory and Practice in Africa," Comparative Politics, vol. 16, no. 4: 421-442.

Benjamin Smith (2005). "Life of the Party: The Origins of Regime Breakdown and Persistence under Single-Party Rule," World Politics, vol. 57, no. 3: 421-451.

Jason Brownlee (2007). "Hereditary Succession in Modern Autocracies," World Politics, vol. 59, no. 4: 595-632.

Larry Diamond (2002). "Thinking about Hybrid Regimes," Journal of Democracy, vol. 12, no. 2: 21-35.

5: September 22

The Institutional Structure of Authoritarianism

Jennifer Gandhi (2010). Political Institutions under Dictatorship (Cambridge University Press).

6: September 29

Legitimacy, Compliance and Support

Charles L. Davis (1976). "The Mobilization of Popular Support for Authoritarian Regimes: The Case of the Lower Class in Mexico," American Journal of Political Science, vol. 20, No. 4: 653-670.

Ardeth Maung Thawngmung (2003). "Rural Perceptions of State Legitimacy in Burma/Myanmar," Journal of Peasant Studies, vol. 30, no. 2: 1-40.

Andrew F. March (2003). "State Ideology and the Legitimation of Authoritarianism: the Case of Post-Soviet Uzbekistan," Journal of Political Ideologies, vol. 8, no. 2: 209-232.

Edward C. Epstein (1984). "Legitimacy, Institutionalization, and Opposition in Exclusionary Bureaucratic-Authoritarian Regimes," Comparative Politics, vol. 17, no. 1: 37-54.

Chong-Min Park (1991). "Authoritarian Rule in South Korea: Political Support and Governmental Performance," Asian Survey, vol. 31, no. 8: 743-761.

Peter H. Solomon, Jr. (2007). "Courts and Judges in Authoritarian Regimes," World Politics, vol. 60, no. 1: 122-145.

7. October 6

Elections under Authoritarianism

Andreas Schedler, ed. (2006). Electoral Authoritarianism: The Dynamics of Unfree Competition (Lynne Rienner Publishers).

Ellen Lust-Okar (2006). "Elections Under Authoritarianism: Preliminary Lessons from Jordan," Democratization, vol. 13, no. 3: 456-471.

→ **October 13**

No Class – Fall Holiday

8: October 20

Regime Durability, Regime Collapse

Eva Bellin (2004). "The Robustness of Authoritarianism in the Middle East: Exceptionalism in Comparative Perspective," Comparative Politics, vol. 36, no. 2: 139-157.

Andrew J. Nathan (2003). "Authoritarian Resilience," Journal of Democracy, vol. 14, no. 1: 6-17.

Clement H. Moore (1974). "Authoritarian Politics in Unincorporated Society: The Case of Nasser's Egypt," Comparative Politics, vol. 6, no. 2: 193-218.

Jalal Alamgir (1997). "Against the Current: The Survival of Authoritarianism in Burma," Pacific Affairs, vol. 70, no. 3: 333-350.

Steven Solnick (1996). "The Breakdown of Hierarchies in the Soviet Union and China," World Politics, vol. 48, no. 2: 209-238.

Jay Ulfelder (2005). "Contentious Collective Action and the Breakdown of Authoritarian Regimes," International Political Science Review, vol. 26, no. 3: 311-334.

Robert H. Dix (1982). "The Breakdown of Authoritarian Regimes," Western Political Quarterly, vol. 35, no. 4: 554-573.

John H. Herz (1952). "The Problem of Successorship in Dictatorial Regimes: A Study in Comparative Law and Institutions," Journal of Politics, vol. 14, no. 1: 19-40.

9: October 27

Competitive Authoritarianism

Steven Levitsky and Lucan A. Way (2010). Competitive Authoritarianism: Hybrid Regimes after the Cold War (Cambridge University Press).

10: November 3

Political Culture and Authoritarianism

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

Daniela Donno and Bruce Russett (2004). "Islam, Authoritarianism, and Female Empowerment: What are the Linkages?," World Politics, vol. 56, no. 4: 582-607.

Ibrahim A. Karawan (1992). "Monarchs, Mullahs, and Marshals: Islamic Regimes?," Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, no. 524: 103-119.

Said Amir Arjomand (1989). "History, Structure, and Revolution in the Shi'ite Tradition in Contemporary Iran," International Political Science Review, vol. 111-119.

Stanley Feldman (2003). "Enforcing Social Conformity: A Theory of Authoritarianism," Political Psychology, vol. 24, no. 1: 41-74.

Susan Tiano (1986). "Authoritarianism and Political Culture in Argentina and Chile in the Mid-1960s," Latin American Research Review, vol. 21, no. 1: 73-98.

Ibrahim K. Sundiata (1998). "The Roots of African Despotism: The Question of Political Culture," African Studies Review, vol. 31, no. 1: 9-31.

11: November 10 **Single-Party Authoritarianism**

Kenneth F. Greene (2009). Why Dominant Parties Lose: Mexico's Democratization in Comparative Perspective (Cambridge University Press).

12: November 17 **Why Are Some States Democratic and Others Not?**

Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson (2009). Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy (Cambridge University Press).

→ November 24 **No Class – Thanksgiving Holiday**

13: December 1 **Authoritarianism's Aftermath**

Michael McFaul (2002). "The Fourth Wave of Democracy and Dictatorship: Non-Cooperative Transitions in the Post-Communist World," World Politics, vol. 54, no. 2: 212-244.

Richard K. Betts (1985-1986). "Dead Dictators and Rioting Mobs: Does the Demise of Authoritarian Rulers Lead to Political Instability?," International Security, vol. 10, no. 3: 112-146.

John H. Herz (1978). "On Reestablishing Democracy after the Downfall of Authoritarian or Dictatorial Regimes," Comparative Politics, vol. 10, no. 4: 559-562.

Karen L. Remmer (1985). "Redemocratization and the Impact of Authoritarian Rule in Latin America," Comparative Politics, vol. 17, no. 3: 253-275.

Mark R. Thompson (2001). "To Shoot or Not to Shoot: Post-Totalitarianism in China and Eastern Europe," Comparative Politics, vol. 34, no. 1: 63-83.

Natalia Letki (2002). "Lustration and Democratization in East-Central Europe," Europe-Asia Studies, vol. 54, no. 4: 529-552.

Paul D'Anieri (2006). "Explaining the Success and Failure of Post-Communist Revolutions," Communist and Post-Communist Studies, vol. 39, no. 3: 331-350.