The Politics of Dictatorship
POSC 345 – Winter 2020
(M & W 10:10 - 11:55am)
Weitz 230

Instructor: Kent Freeze
Phone: 507-222-4158
Email: kfreeze@carleton.edu
Office: Willis 413
Office Hours: Monday 10am - 11:45am. Thurs. 1-3pm, and by appt.

Course Description
With over half of the world’s population living in non-democracies, understanding the nature of authoritarian regimes is a critical component of comparative political science. We will examine the variety of authoritarian regimes around the world, the nature of state-society relations in different authoritarian regimes, as well as the strategies employed by dictators to maintain stability and control. We will supplement the more general theories of authoritarian rule with detailed case studies of particular regimes.

Course Requirements and Expectations
Classroom discussion and participation will be a critical component of our classes. To facilitate insightful and interesting discussions, you are required to complete the assigned readings before each class and contribute to class discussions. Generally the reading load will be around 150 to 200 pages per week. There are no required texts for purchase – all readings will be made available electronically on Moodle.
Grading

Your grade will be based on the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation and Attendance</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Club</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Research Project</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposal (Due Jan. 16)</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theory and Research Design Paper (Jan. 23)</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analysis Paper (Due Feb. 13)</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rough Draft Paper (for peer review) (Feb. 20)</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer Review of Draft Papers (Feb. 27)</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Presentation (Mar. 10 in class)</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Paper (Mar. 5)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Class Preparation, Attendance and Participation - 25%**

Attendance and participation is required. In preparation for each class, you are expected to come to class having read and thought about the readings for the day.

Prior to each class, we will divide the readings for the next class session (with the exception of classes where there may not be an obvious division of readings). You will be expected to prepare discussion points and questions for those readings, but are expected to have done ALL the readings for the class. At the beginning of each class, we will give you time to discuss with your classmates who had primary responsibility for the same readings as you, and to prepare as a group the points you would wish to discuss.

In addition, many class sessions have countries to examine for that day. These are primarily to give us as a class to learn a little bit about the variety of authoritarian regimes around the world. In the class session preceding, we will randomly assign everyone to examine that country. Be prepared to come to class presenting some background on that regime, with particular attention to how the topic/readings for that day apply to the country you are examining.

**Book Club Day - 5%**

On Feb. 18, we will have a book club style class discussion. Pick one of the following books:

2. *The Third Reich in Power*, Richard Evans, 2005 (This is the second book in a trilogy - the others are also applicable to the class).


In addition, you can pick any other book which seems appropriate with my approval. In preparation for the class, you will prepare a very short memo, the form for which will be available on Moodle. Please bring this completed form to class (no electronic submission necessary).

**Original Research Paper - 70%**

Over the course of the semester, you will work on an original research paper in which you discuss and examine some topic relating to authoritarian regimes. The final paper will be between 15 and 20 double spaced pages (not including references).

**Research Proposal - 7%**

Prepare a research question that is of interest to you and formulate a hypothesis that can potentially answer the question. Your proposal will be 2 or 3 double spaced pages, and will outline what your proposed research is, and how you intend to carry it out.

**Theory and Research Design Paper - 7%**

In this paper of around 6 to 7 pages, you will explore the literature around your research topic, and outline your plans to answer your research questions.

**Analysis Paper - 7%**

The analysis paper will be the empirical findings of your independent research. This will become the results section of your final paper.

**Rough Draft for Peer Review - 7%**

Prepare a rough draft that matches the basic guidelines of the final paper. This will be graded on a pass/fail basis, and there will be NO EXCEPTIONS for late rough drafts.
Peer Review of Rough Drafts - 5%

Prepare a one or two page memo review of the rough draft for one of your peers, discussing the strengths and weaknesses of their paper project, as well as suggestions on how to improve it.

Class Presentation - 7%

In one of the final classes, you will present your research project to your peers.

Final Paper - 30%

The final paper should be a polished, finished project - perhaps something that you would feel comfortable submitting to an undergraduate research journal.

Course Policies

Grading Policies

I will assign grades using the following scale: A (93.33), A- (90), B+ (86.67), B (83.33), B- (80), C+ (76.67), C (73.33), C- (70), D+ (66.67), D (63.33), D- (60) F (Below 60). I do not round your final grade up or down (so if you receive a 93.327, you will receive an A- for a final grade).

Here are several important details regarding my policy on course grades

1. I will not receive grade complaints if more than two weeks have passed after the assignment has been returned. Before I review your grade you must first:
   - Wait 24 hours.
   - Schedule a time to meet with me to discuss your grade.
   - Submit a formal appeal in writing (email is sufficient–but be clear that it is the appeal in the subject heading) that clearly identifies content in the assignment and the reasons why you think your grade should be changed. These appeals should refer to specific things in the assignment, and not to vague reasons like “I worked really hard.”

   The second grade, whether higher or lower, will become your grade on the assignment.

2. Late assignments are not tolerated. Your grade will be lowered 5 points for each day it is late (the exception is for the reading questions/comments, which will not be accepted if late). That is if the assignment is due on Wednesday and you complete it on Thursday, the highest grade you can make is 95. If you complete it on Friday, the highest grade possible will be a 90. And so forth.
3. The ONLY acceptable (not penalized) excuses for not completing an assignment on
time are family emergencies or illnesses. However, in these cases, I will arrange to give
you extra time ONLY if you communicate with me BEFORE the assignment is due
and you provide DOCUMENTATION of the circumstance.

Electronics in Class Policy

You are welcome to bring digital equipment (laptop, ebook reader, etc.) to class. However,
I expect you to be responsible in your use of electronic equipment: please avoid visiting
social networking sites, or otherwise browsing the internet on sites unrelated to the course.
Individuals who abuse this privilege will be asked to turn off their computer. Please turn off
all cell phones during class. If I notice that the use of an electronic device is distracting you
in class, your participation grade will suffer.

Academic Honesty

You are expected to abide by fundamental standards of academic honesty. A discussion of
plagiarism can be found at: https://apps.carleton.edu/campus/doc/integrity/. All work is
expected to be your own. Cheating, plagiarism (using someone else’s words or ideas without
properly citing them), and all forms of academic misconduct will not be tolerated and will
be strictly handled according to university policy. If you are uncertain, cite your sources!

Disability-Related Accomodations

It is the policy of Carleton College to provide reasonable accommodations to students with
documented disabilities. Students, however, are responsible for registering with Disabilities
Services, in addition to making requests known to me in a timely manner. If you require ac-
commodations in this class, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible (during
the 1st week of the semester), so that appropriate arrangements can be made. The procedures
for registering with Disabilities Services can be found at http://apps.carleton.edu/disabilityservices/.

Course Schedule

Readings should be completed prior to class. I reserve the right to make changes to the
course schedule. I will alert you to any changes made in class, via email, and I will post the
updated syllabus on Moodle.

Jan. 7: Introduction and Overview

• Introduction to the Course
Jan. 9: The Dictator’s Dilemma


Jan. 14: Repression and Violence

- Countries to examine: Iran, Eritrea, Zimbabwe.

Jan. 16: Cooptation and Power-Sharing

- Countries to examine: Morocco, Syria, Singapore

Jan. 21: Leadership Succession

- Countries to examine: Eswatini, Saudi Arabia, Mexico under the PRI (1934-2000)

Jan. 23: Parties


• Countries to examine: Botswana, China, Tanzania.

Jan. 28: Legislatures


• Countries to examine: Vietnam, Rwanda, Kazakhstan

Jan. 30: Elections


• Countries to examine: Bangladesh, Uzbekistan, Ethiopia

Feb. 4: Information Control


• Gary King, Jennifer Pan, and Margaret Roberts. How censorship in China allows government criticism but silences collective expression. *American Political Science Review*, pages 1–18, 2013

Feb. 6: Game Day

• Come to class prepared to play the game of “Autocracy”.

Feb. 11: Propaganda and Cults of Personality


• Countries to examine: North Korea, Turkmenistan, Equatorial Guinea.
Feb. 13: Coups and the Military

- Nam Kyu Kim and Alex M Kroeger. Regime and leader instability under two forms of military rule. *Comparative Political Studies,* 51(1):3–37, 2018
- Countries to examine: Pinochet’s Chile, Myanmar,

Feb. 18: Book Club Day

- Come prepared to discuss your book club choice.

Feb. 20: Authoritarian Survival


Feb. 25: Protests and Democratization


Feb. 27: Authoritarian Responsiveness


Mar. 3: Economic Outcomes

Mar. 5: Democratic Collapse

- Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt. *How democracies die*. Crown, 2018, Chapters 1, 4 and 5.
- Countries to examine: Hungary, Nicaragua, Turkey, The United States.

Mar. 10: Student Presentations