

POLI 4060: Authoritarian Regimes
M/W/F: 11:30am-12:20pm
Location: 0112 Audubon Hall

Professor: Austin S. Matthews
Office: Stubbs 320

Office Hours: Wed. 12:30-1:30 or by appt.
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Overview

Until the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, dictators controlled a significant majority of the world's nations. This course will have students examine the history, present, and future of authoritarian regimes within the sub-national and comparative contexts. Topics include the origins of the dictatorship, its evolution throughout world history, how they function in the modern world, and their relationships in the global community. This course will utilize large-N academic research, case studies, visual media, historical studies, and other research methodologies. The goal of this course is to introduce students to and develop their understanding of the autocratic form of governance, allowing them to better scrutinize modern regimes and political actors.

Required Readings

It is expected that you will have thoroughly and critically read the assigned manuscripts by the beginning of the week they are assigned. We will be heavily discussing the concepts elaborated in these works. If you are having any difficulties understanding the theoretical or empirical points of these manuscripts, I encourage you to speak to me. Assigned readings by large should be available through Google Scholar, a Google search, or the LSU library search engine.

Graded Course Requirements

Quizzes: 20%

Unannounced quizzes will be distributed throughout the semester at either the beginning or end of class.

Research Paper: 20%

Students will be assigned a modern or historical autocratic regime to study. They will be expected to compose a well-researched and rigorous paper analyzing various aspects of your assigned dictatorship. This assignment and its requirements will be detailed later in the semester. Due April 17th.

Mid-term examination: 30%:

This will be a timed, multiple-choice examination testing you on subject matter from the first half of the course.

Final examination: 30%

This will be a timed, multiple-choice examination testing you on subject matter from the second half of the course. It is non-cumulative.

Grading Scale:

Final grades will be determined in accordance with the current plus/minus system of alphabetical grading utilized by LSU. Below are the possible grades and their numerical range.

Score	Grade	Score	Grade	Grade	Score
97-100	A+	94-96	A	90-93	A-
87-89	B+	84-86	B	80-83	B-
77-79	C+	74-76	C	70-73	C-
67-69	D+	64-66	D	60-63	D-
		<60	F		

Course Policies:

LSU Learning Competency Statement for the Social Sciences:

LSU graduates will demonstrate an understanding of the informing factors of global interdependence, including economic force, political dynamics, and cultural and linguistic difference.

Participation:

This course is designed to be a mix of instructor-guided lecturing and student discussion. Considering my generous policy on reading assignments, I expect all students to come to class ready to critique the week's assigned reading and core concepts. This is a small class, so attendance and participation will be noted.

Special Accommodations:

Please speak with Disability Services and the instructor as early as possible in the semester if you have a documented need for accommodation. I will of course keep this information in confidence and do everything I can to facilitate the course's learning objectives for you. Disability Services is located in 115 Johnson Hall and can be contacted at 225-578-5919.

General Statement on Academic Integrity:

Louisiana State University adopted the Commitment to Community in 1995 to set forth guidelines for student behavior both inside and outside of the classroom. The Commitment to Community charges students to maintain high standards of academic and personal integrity. All students are expected to read and be familiar with the LSU Code of Student Conduct and Commitment to Community, found online at www.lsu.edu/saa. It is your responsibility as a student at LSU to know and understand the academic standards for our community.

Students who are suspected of violating the Code of Conduct will be referred to the office of Student Advocacy & Accountability. For undergraduate students, a first academic violation could result in a zero grade on the assignment or failing the class and disciplinary probation until graduation. For a second academic violation, the result could be suspension from LSU. For graduate students, suspension is the appropriate outcome for the first offense.

Plagiarism:

As a student at LSU, it is your responsibility to refrain from plagiarizing the academic property of another and to utilize appropriate citation method for all coursework. In this class, it is recommended that you use the APSA citation style. Ignorance of the citation method is not an

excuse for academic misconduct. Remember there is a difference between paraphrasing and quoting and how to properly cite each respectively.

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 your document. The version of Microsoft Word with the “References” function is available in most University computer labs. A demonstration of how to use this tool is available online at www.lsu.edu/saa.

Late Work:

I will not accept any late work unless under extraordinary circumstances. This includes deaths in the immediate family and dire illness. To qualify for an extension, you must inform me of the situation and provide some proof of the issue (doctor’s note, etc.) within a day of the due date. Otherwise, your work will be considered late and not accepted for credit. Unless otherwise noted, all assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date.

Technology:

Laptop use for notes-taking and research purposes is contingently permitted. Cell phone use is not allowed under any circumstance. Any technology privileges may be collectively or individually revoked during the semester at the discretion of the professor. Continued abuse of technology privileges may result in punitive adjustments to a student’s grade.

Extra Credit:

Extra credit may be offered collectively at the instructor’s discretion. I will not allow individual students to earn extra credit that is not available to the entire class.

Course Schedule and Reading Assignments:

Week 1, Jan. 11: Syllabus overview, no class Jan. 13 for SPSA conference

Week 2, Jan. 18-20: Conceptualizing Democracy and Dictatorship, no class Jan. 16 for holiday

Read: Svolik, Milan. 2013. “Incentives, Institutions, and the Challenges to Research on Authoritarian Politics.” *APSA Comparative Democratization Newsletter*. Available at: https://campuspress.yale.edu/svolik/files/2015/10/svolik-apsa_cd-19m77ny.pdf

Week 3, Jan. 23-27: 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. Available through LSU Library website.

Week 4, Jan. 30-Feb. 3: Categorical Typologies

Read: Geddes, Barbara, Joseph Wright, and Erica Frantz. 2014. “Autocratic Breakdown and Regime Transitions: A New Data Set.” *Perspectives on Politics* 12 (2): 313-311. Available at: http://www3.nd.edu/~ggoertz/qmir/geddes_etal2014.pdf

Week 5, Feb. 6-10: Single Party Authoritarianism

Read: Magaloni, Beatriz, and Ruth Kricheli. 2010. "Political Order and One-Party Rule." *Annual Review of Political Science* 13: 123-143. Available through LSU Library website.

Week 6, Feb. 13-17: Totalitarianism, Communism, Fascism, and Baathism

Read: Friedrich, Carl J., and Zbigniew K. Brzezinski. 1965. *Totalitarian Dictatorship and Autocracy*. Frederick A. Praeger Publishers: New York, NY. Available at: http://is.muni.cz/el/1421/jaro2012/HIB0405/Friedrich_-_Brzezinski.pdf

Week 7, Feb. 20-24: Military Authoritarianism

Read: Cohen, Youssef. 1987. "Democracy from Above: The Political Origins of Military Dictatorship in Brazil." *World Politics* 40 (1): 30-54. Available on JSTOR.

Week 8, Mar. 1-3: Moral Hazard and Coup-Proofing, no class Feb. 27 for Mardi Gras holiday

Read: Svolik, Milan. 2012. "Contracting on Violence: The Moral Hazard in Authoritarian Repression and Military Intervention in Politics." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 57 (5): 765-794. Available at: <https://campuspress.yale.edu/svolik/files/2015/10/contracting-2i1zpf7.pdf>

Week 9, Mar. 6-10: Review on Monday, Midterm exam on Wednesday, no class Friday

No reading.

Week 10, Mar. 13-17: Personalism and the Cult of Personality

Read: Kapuściński, Ryszard. 1978. *The Emperor: Downfall of an Autocrat*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt: Boston, MA.

Khrushchev, Nikita. 1956. "On the Cult of Personality and Its Consequences." 20th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Available at: <https://www.marxists.org/archive/khrushchev/1956/02/24.htm>

Week 11, Mar. 20-24: Monarchical Authoritarianism

Read: Yom, Sam L., and F. Gregory Gause III. 2012. "Resilient Royals: How Arab Monarchies Hang on." *Journal of Democracy* 23 (4): 74-88. Available through LSU Library website.

Week 12, Mar. 27-31: The Resource Curse

Read: Wright, Joseph, Erica Frantz, and Barbara Geddes. 2015. "Oil and Autocratic Regime Survival." *British Journal of Political Science* 45 (2): 287-306. Available on LSU Library website.

Week 13, Apr. 3-5: Competitive Authoritarianism, no class Apr. 7th for MPSA conference

Read: Levitsky, Steven, and Lucan Way. 2002. "The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism." *Journal of Democracy* 13 (2): 51-65. Available on LSU Library website.

Week 14, Apr. 10-14: no class for Spring Break holiday

Work on research paper.

Week 15, Apr. 17-21: Political Economy under Authoritarianism, RESEARCH PAPER DUE

Read: Belova, Eugenia, and Valery Lazarev. 2007. "Why Party and How Much? The Soviet State and the Party Finance." *Public Choice* 130 (3): 437-456. Available through LSU Library website.

Week 16, Apr. 24-28: Democratization and Political Violence

Read: Zielinski, Jakub. 1999. "Transitions from Authoritarian Rule and the Problem of Violence." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 43 (2): 213-228. Available through LSU Library website.

Wednesday, May 3, 7:30-930am: Final Examination