

POLS 4530/5530: Authoritarianism

Fall 2018 – Tuesday 7:15-10:00 pm, McGannon 122

Professor Matthew Nanes

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Office Hours: T 3-4 pm, W 11 am-12 pm, and by appointment (McGannon 123)

Course Description and Goals

This course provides an introduction to research on authoritarian politics. The primary purpose is to review, synthesize, and critique existing scholarly literature on the topic to build a foundation on which students may begin their own research. Questions we will cover include:

- What is an autocracy?
- Are all autocracies the same from an analytic perspective? What is to be gained by differentiating and categorizing?
- When and why do democracies die?
- What problems do dictators face? How do they solve those problems?
- Why do autocracies sometimes allow democratic institutions like legislatures, opposition parties, and elections?
- How do autocrats rig elections? Why bother holding an election that is obviously rigged?
- Why do opposition parties and candidates participate in rigged elections?
- How does authoritarianism affect policy outcomes, economic growth, and international interactions?

By the end of the semester, students should be able to a) summarize what existing research has to say about each of these questions, and b) make a coherent case for the way that future research should continue to address these questions. I do not assume that students have any specific knowledge of political science. However, this is an advanced class and we will move quickly.

We will apply a theoretical framework on authoritarianism to two primary contemporary cases, China and Egypt. I did my best to select readings that provide substantive background on these two important cases and analyze the role of authoritarian politics in them. We will also see examples from Vietnam, Syria, Mexico, Africa (cross-national), Jordan, Lebanon, and Uganda.

This course fulfills the **Social Science core requirement**. You will acquire conceptual tools and methodologies for analyzing and understanding the social world. With these tools, you will be able to act in your world more effectively and become forces for positive change. You will gain a better understanding of human diversity. You will be able to think and write critically about human behavior and community. You will become aware of the various methodological approaches used by social scientists.

Attendance Policy

Attendance and active participation are expected. Classroom discussions constitute a major portion of the course, and you cannot make up for missed sessions by doing the readings or reviewing notes. Given that we meet only once per week, you are allowed 1 unexcused absence with no penalty. Additional absences will be excused only with documentation of a genuine need that is beyond your control. Each unexcused absence will result in a 5 point penalty on your final course grade.

Grading and Assignments

The assignments are intended to evaluate you based on the course goals listed above, with an emphasis on a) your ability to explain the existing research, including its strengths and weaknesses, and b) your ability to build on the existing research to propose a creative and productive path forward for contributing to our understanding of authoritarian politics.

- 30% Active classroom participation. Needless to say, you cannot actively participate if you (a) are not present, or (b) have not done the assigned reading. Feel free to check in with the professor at any beginning in week 5 for an update on how you are doing.
- 45% Three response papers (15% each). Throughout the quarter you will be assigned to write three papers in which you a) summarize and synthesize the existing research on the topic assigned for that week, b) highlight one or two strengths of the research, c) highlight one or two areas where the research remains inconclusive, and d) propose a research project to build on existing research OR propose a change in US foreign policy based on the conclusions of the research (your choice). Additional details and a schedule of assignments will be provided before the first due date. These assignments are open-book, and you are expected to consult the written materials assigned in class, but please do not discuss them with your classmates until after the due date has passed.
- 25% Final Paper. You will choose to write on one out of several essay prompts which ask you to build creatively on the material we covered during the semester. The prompts are designed to give you considerable flexibility in terms of a research or policy focus. Additional details will be provided.

I will convert your numeric grades to a letter course grade using this scale:

A	93-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D	60-70
A-	90-92	B	83-86	C	73-76	F	below 60
		B-	80-82	C-	70-72		

Academic Integrity:

I take academic integrity very seriously. It is my intention to make the guidelines for each assignment crystal clear with regard to collaboration and the use of outside help. If you are not sure what is allowed on a particular assignment, it is your responsibility to contact me for clarification. Unless I specify otherwise, assignments should be completed on your own with no input from anyone else. Also unless otherwise specified, all assignments are closed-book and you may not use any resources to help complete them. Any violation of academic integrity will result in an automatic F in the class AND a referral to the Associate Dean's office.

You should familiarize yourself with the university's general guidelines on academic integrity found here: <http://www.slu.edu/arts-and-sciences/student-resources/academic-honesty.php>

Students with Disabilities

Students with a documented disability who wish to request academic accommodations are encouraged to contact Disability Services to discuss accommodation requests and eligibility requirements. Please visit the Office of Disability Services website (<http://www.slu.edu/life-at-slu/student-success-center/disability-services>) for details. Please also contact me as soon as possible if you wish to discuss any of these options.

Required Books

- Blaydes, Lisa. 2011. *Elections and Distributive Politics in Mubarak's Egypt*. Cambridge University Press.
- Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce, Alastair Smith, Randolph M. Siverson, and James Morrow. 2003. *The Logic of Political Survival*. MIT Press.

Week 1: Course Intro

No assigned reading

- What's the point of political science research?
- How to read an academic article

Week 2: What is Autocracy?

Reading

- Collier and Levitsky (1997), "Democracy with Adjectives: Conceptual Innovation in Comparative Research."
- Przeworski, Alvarez, Cheibub, and Limongi (2000), *Democracy and Development*. "Chapter 1: Democracies and Dictatorships."
- Diamond (2002), "Thinking about Hybrid Regimes."

Week 3: Information Problems / The Dictator's Dilemma

Reading

- Wintrobe (1998), *The Political Economy of Dictatorship*. Chapters 1 and 2 ONLY.
- Lorentzen, Peter (2013), "Regularizing Rioting: Permitting Public Protest in an Authoritarian Regime." *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*.

Week 4: Agency Problems

Reading

- Boix and Svolik (2013), "The Foundations of Limited Authoritarian Government: Institutions, Commitment, and Power-Sharing in Dictatorships." *Journal of Politics*. **NOTE:** You are not required to follow the formal model; just get as much as you can out of the verbal version of the theory and the empirical analysis.
- Quinlivan (1999), "Coups-Proofing: Its Practices and Consequences in the Middle East." *International Security*.
- Blaydes (2011), *Elections and Distributive Politics in Mubarak's Egypt*. Chapter 3 ONLY.

Week 5: Media and Censorship

Reading

- Stockman, Daniela and Mary E. Gallagher (2011), "Remote Control: How the Media Sustain Authoritarian Rule in China." *Comparative Political Studies*.
- Roberts, Margaret (2018), "Chapter 1: Introduction." In *Censored: Distraction and Diversion Inside China's Great Firewall*. Princeton University Press.

Week 6: Parties, Legislatures, and Cabinets

Reading

- Magaloni, Beatriz (2008), "Credible Power-Sharing and the Longevity of Authoritarian Rule." *Comparative Political Studies*.
- Arriola, Leonard (2009), "Patronage and Political Stability in Africa." *Comparative Political Studies*

- Malesky and Schuler (2011), “The Single-Party Dictator’s Dilemma: Information in Elections without Opposition.” *Legislative Studies Quarterly*

Week 7: Why Autocrats Hold Elections

Reading

- Blaydes (2011), *Elections and Distributive Politics in Mubarak’s Egypt*. Chapters 1 and 4 ONLY.
- Geddes, Barbara (2006), “Why Parties and Elections in Authoritarian Regimes?” *Unpublished Manuscript*
- Lust-Okar, Ellen (2006), “Elections Under Authoritarianism: Preliminary Lessons from Jordan.” *Democratization*

Week 8: How to Steal an Election (I)

Reading

- Schedler, Andreas (2002), “The Menu of Manipulation.” *Journal of Democracy*
- Simpser, Alberto (2008), “Cheating Big: On the Logic of Electoral Corruption in Developing Countries.” *Unpublished Manuscript*
- Hafner-Burton, Emily, Susan Hyde, and Ryan Jablonski (2014), “When do Governments Resort to Election Violence?” *British Journal of Political Science*

Week 9: How to Steal an Election (II)

Reading

- Gans-Morse, Jordan, Sebastian Mazzuca, and Simeon Nichter (2013), “Varieties of Clientelism: Machine Politics during Elections.” *American Journal of Political Science*
- Corstange, Daniel (2018), “Clientelism in Competitive and Uncompetitive Elections.” *Comparative Political Studies*
- Ferree, Karen, Robert Dowd, Danielle Jung, and Clark Gibson (2014), “Experimental Evidence on the Effects of Electoral Inking on Turnout in a Fragile Democracy.” *Unpublished Manuscript*

Week 10: Economic Development and Public Goods (I)

Reading

- Pond, Amy (2018), “Financial Liberalization: Stable Autocracies and Constrained Democracies.” *Comparative Political Studies*
- Bueno de Mesquita, Smith, Siverson, and Morrow (2004), *The Logic of Political Survival*. Chapters 5 and 10.
- Wang, Yuhua (2015), *Tying the Autocrat’s Hands: The Rise of the Rule of Law in China*. Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1 and 2 ONLY.

Week 11: Economic Development and Public Goods (II)

Reading

- Blaydes (2011), *Elections and Distributive Politics in Mubarak’s Egypt*. Chapter 5 ONLY.
- Wang (2015), *Tying the Autocrat’s Hands*. Chapter 4 ONLY.
- Knutsen, Carl Henrik and Magnus Rasmussen (2018), “The Autocratic Welfare State: Old-Age Pensions, Credible Commitments, and Regime Survival.” *Comparative Political Studies*.

Week 12: Corruption

Reading

- Wang (2015), *Tying the Autocrat's Hands*. Chapters 5 and 6 ONLY.
- Hollyer, James and Leonard Wantchekon (2015), "Corruption and Ideology in Autocracies." *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization*. Read the whole article, but feel free to skim pages 505-515.

Week 13: Autocratic Transitions (I)

Reading

- Olson, Mancur (1993), "Dictatorship, Democracy, and Development," *American Political Science Review*
- Bueno de Mesquita, Smith, Siverson, and Morrow (2004), *The Logic of Political Survival*. Chapters 1, 2, 7.

Week 14: Autocratic Transitions (II)

Reading

- Przeworski, Alvarez, Cheibub, and Limongi (2000), *Democracy and Development*. "Chapter 2: Economic Development and Political Regimes."
- Levitsky, Stephen and Lucan A. Way (2002), "Election Without Democracy: The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism." *Journal of Democracy*
- Svobik (2009), "Power Sharing and Leadership Dynamics in Authoritarian Regimes." *American Journal of Political Science*. NOTE: You are not required to follow the formal model; just get as much as you can out of the verbal version of the theory and the empirical analysis.