

**GOV 2486: THE POLITICS OF DICTATORSHIP:  
AUTHORITARIAN RESILIENCE AND DEMOCRATIZATION**

**Professor:** Christopher Heurlin

**Class Time:** Tuesday and Thursday, 2:50-4:15

**Class Location:** Druckenmiller 020

**Office:** 38 College St, Room 204

**Office Hours:** 4:00-5:00 pm Monday and Wednesday

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**Course Description**

Despite the end of the Cold War, dictatorship has persisted—even thrived. At least 40 percent of states in the world remain authoritarian. This course introduces students to the social and political logic of dictatorship. We explore questions such as: Where do dictatorships come from? Why might people support dictatorships? What effect does dictatorship have on political, economic, and social outcomes? How do dictatorships differ from one another? Why are some dictatorships resilient and stand the test of time while some quickly collapse? When dictatorships collapse, why are some dictatorships replaced by other dictatorships, while others democratize? The course concentrates on the post-World War II era and explores the dynamics of dictatorship in regions throughout the world, including the Middle East, Latin America, Asia, Europe, and Africa.

**Expectations**

I expect students above all to be actively involved in the learning process. This means several things. First, I expect students to attend all classes. Second, I expect students to be active in classroom discussions. Third, I expect students to have read all of the readings listed on the syllabus assigned for each class *before* coming to class. Our classroom discussions will be centered around the readings as well as the lectures. This means that doing the readings in advance is critical to your ability to participate. Fourth, I expect students to be respectful of one another's opinions and to conduct discussions in a friendly manner.

**Readings**

The readings can be found online at blackboard. Please **PRINT THE READINGS OUT AND BRING THEM TO CLASS WITH YOU**. Classroom discussion will be centered primarily around the readings and it is therefore vital that you bring your readings with you. Although

much of the class will be discussion-based, we will not necessarily discuss all of the readings in class.

## **Grading**

Students will be evaluated on the basis of several exams, a data analysis paper, a case study paper and classroom participation. The majority of the grade is comprised of two exams, a mid-term exam and a final exam. These exams will cover material from both lectures and readings. The lectures in this class will complement, not duplicate, the readings. This means that lectures will at times expand on the arguments made in the readings, but at other times will challenge the readings and offer competing explanations. Students will also write a short (3-4 page) data analysis paper. Students will also write a short (3-5 page) case study paper on the breakdown of an authoritarian regime. Finally, students will be graded on their participation in class. These grades will include not only whether or not students showed up for class, but the degree to which they participated in classroom discussions. Students should not expect an “A” in participation just for showing up. The final exam date is listed on the syllabus and available on Bearings. I will not change the final exam date unless you satisfy the eligibility requirements laid out by the college.

Data Analysis Paper: 15%

Mid-Term: 25%

Authoritarian Breakdown Case Study Paper: 15%

Final Exam: 25%

Participation: 20%

## **Accommodations**

Students that need special accommodations should notify me at the beginning of the term so that I can prepare reasonable accommodations for them. In order to receive these accommodations the students should follow the procedures set forth by the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs.

## **Honor Code**

All students are required to abide by the Bowdoin Academic Honor Code. Academic dishonesty is something I take very seriously and will treat in accordance with the Code. According to the Honor Code, “Academic Dishonesty” includes but is not limited to (1) the receiving, giving, or using of any unauthorized assistance on quizzes, tests, written assignments, examinations or laboratory assignments; (2) references to sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in preparing papers, constructing reports, solving problems or carrying out other academic assignments; (3) inadequate citation of sources; (4) acquisition, without permission, of

tests, computer files or similar material which would give the student an unfair advantage on an assignment or examination; (5) submission of academic work not a student's own original effort; (6) use of the same work for multiple courses without prior knowledge of the receiving instructors; (7) depriving learners of access, including computer access, to library information through intentional monopolization, mutilation, defacing, unauthorized removal of books or other materials from College libraries, or purposeful failure to return library materials on a timely basis; (8) unauthorized altering of academic records (transcripts, grading sheets, Course Registration Cards, etc.); (9) fabrication of research data.

## Schedule

Please do all readings *before* the class period on that date. The schedule is subject to change. If any of the readings change, I will notify the class and place a new syllabus on Blackboard.

	<b>Dictatorial Institutions and Authoritarian Regime Types</b>
Aug 30 Th	Introduction
Sep 4 T	<b>Ezrow and Frantz</b> - "Authoritarian Politics: Typologies" and "The Causes of Dictatorship" in <i>Dictators and Dictatorships</i>
Sep 6 TH	<b>Ezrow and Frantz</b> - "Military Dictatorship in Latin America and Beyond" in <i>Dictators and Dictatorships</i> ; <b>Christensen</b> – "Thailand After the Coup" <i>Journal of Democracy</i> Vol. 2, No. 3 (1991), p. 94-106.
Sep 11 T	<b>Ezrow and Frantz</b> - "Single Party Dictatorships in Eastern Europe, Asia and Beyond" in <i>Dictators and Dictatorships</i> ; <b>Li</b> - "China's Communist Party State" in Joseph's <i>Politics in China: an Introduction</i>
Sep 13 TH	<b>Ezrow and Frantz</b> - "Personalist Dictatorships in Sub-Saharan Africa and Beyond" in <i>Dictators and Dictatorships</i> ; <b>Callaghy</b> - "External Actors and the Relative Autonomy of the Political Aristocracy in Zaire" <i>Journal of Commonwealth and Comparative Politics</i> , 1983 Vol 21, No 3
	<b>Popular Support for Authoritarian Regimes</b>
Sep 18 T	<b>Sassoon</b> - "The Personality Cult of Saddam Hussein" in <i>Saddam Hussein's Ba'th Party</i> ; <b>Wedeen</b> - "Acting As If" in <i>Ambiguities of Domination</i>
Sep 20 TH	<b>Pfaff</b> - "No Exit" in <i>Exit-Voice Dynamics and the Collapse of East Germany</i> ; <b>Dimitrov and Sassoon</b> – "State Security, Information and Repression: A Comparison of Communist Bulgaria and Ba'thist Iraq" <i>Journal of Cold War Studies</i> , Vol. 16, No. 2 (2014) p. 3-31.
Sep 25 T	<b>Chen</b> – "Why Does the Middle Class Support or Not Support Democracy" in <i>A Middle Class without Democracy</i> <b>Rose Mishler and Munro</b> - "Individual Influences on Regimes Support" in <i>Popular Support for an Undemocratic Regime</i>

Sep 27 TH	<b>Walsh and Olenburger</b> – “Analysis of Variance” ( <b>partial, 123-135</b> ) and “Bivariate Correlation and Regression” in <i>Essential Statistics for the Social and Behavioral Sciences</i> <b>COMPUTER LAB SESSION</b>
Oct 2 T	<b>COMPUTER LAB SESSION</b>
Oct 4 TH	<b>Trejo</b> – “Competing for Souls” and “Competing for Votes” in <i>Popular Movements in Autocracies</i>
	<b>Economics and Authoritarian Regimes</b>
Oct 11 TH	<b>Wright</b> - "Do Authoritarian Institutions Constrain?" <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> , 2008. Vol 52, No 2 <b>Bueno De Mesquita and Smith</b> - "Getting and Spending" in <i>Dictator's Handbook</i> <b>DATA PROJECT PAPER DUE IN CLASS</b>
Oct 16 T	<b>Saxonberg</b> – “The Economic Situation” in <i>The Fall: A Comparative Study of the End of Communism in Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary and Poland</i>
Oct 18 TH	<b>Doner, Ritchie and Slater</b> – “Systemic Vulnerability and the Origins of Developmental States” <i>International Organization</i> , Vol. 59, No. 2 (2005): 327-361 <b>Crystal</b> - "Coalitions in Oil Monarchies" <i>Comparative Politics</i> , 1989, Vol 21. No 4.
	<b>Electoral Authoritarianism</b>
Oct 23 T	<b>Geddes</b> - Why Parties and Elections in Authoritarian Regimes? <i>Unpublished Manuscript</i> ; <b>Lust-Okar</b> - "Elections Under Authoritarianism" <i>Democratization</i> , 2006. Vol. 13. No. 3.
Oct 25 TH	<b>MIDTERM</b>
Oct 30 T	<b>Blaydes</b> - "Elections and Elite Management" in <i>Elections and Distributive Politics in Mubarak's Egypt</i> ; <b>Levitsky and Way</b> – “The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism” <i>Journal of Democracy</i> , Vol. 13, No. 2, (2002): 51-65.
Nov 1 TH	<b>Hyde</b> - "Democracy Contingent Benefits" in <i>The Pseudo-Democrat's Dilemma</i>
	<b>Modernization and Democratization</b>
Nov 6 T	<b>Huber, Rueschemeyer and Stephens</b> - "The Impact of Economic Development on Democracy" <i>Journal of Economic Perspectives</i> , 1993. Vol. 7. No. 3.; <b>Inglehart and Welzel</b> - "How Development Leads to Democracy" <i>Foreign Affairs</i> , 2009. Vol 88. No. 2;
Nov 8 TH	<b>Przeworski and Limongi</b> - "Modernization Theories and Facts" <i>World Politics</i> , 1997, Vol. 49. No. 2.; <b>Boix and Stokes</b> - "Endogenous Democratization" <i>World Politics</i> , 2003, Vol. 55. No. 4.
	<b>Elite Approaches to Democratization</b>
Nov 13 T	<b>Hale</b> – “Regime Cycles: Democracy, Autocracy and Revolution in Post-

	Soviet Eurasia” <i>World Politics</i> Vol. 58, No. 1 (2005):133-165
Nov 15 TH	<b>Lee</b> – “Personalism in Indonesia: The Fall of Suharto (1998)” in <i>Defect or Defend: Military Responses to Popular Protests in Authoritarian Asia</i> <b>PEER REVIEW IN CLASS</b>
	<b>Protest and Regime Breakdown</b>
Nov 20 T	<b>Ulfelder</b> - "Contentious Collective Action and the Breakdown of Authoritarian Regimes" <i>International Political Science Review</i> , 2005, Vol. 26. No. 3.; <b>Schock</b> - "People Power and Political Opportunities" <i>Social Problems</i> , 1999, Vol. 46. No. 3. <b>AUTHORITARIAN BREAKDOWN CASE STUDY PAPER DUE IN CLASS</b>
	<b>Fall of Communism</b>
Nov 27 T	<b>Bunce</b> - "Domestic Socialism" and "Leaving Socialism" in <i>Subversive Institutions</i>
Nov 29 TH	<b>Kuran</b> - "Now Out of Never" <i>World Politics</i> , 1991, Vol. 44, No. 1.
	<b>Arab Spring</b>
Dec 4 T	<b>Brownlee, Masoud and Reynolds</b> – “Lineages of Repression” and “Breakdowns and Crackdowns” in <i>The Arab Spring</i>
Dec 6 TH	<b>Levitsky and Zeblatt</b> – “The Unraveling” and “Trump against the Guardrails” in <i>How Democracies Die</i>