

International Relations 206(W): Authoritarianism  
University of Rochester  
Monday, 2:00 PM – 4:40 PM  
Fall 2015  
LeChase 181

Instructor: Adam Cohon  
Phone: 585-275-5466

will cover both historical authoritarian cases such as twentieth-century communist and fascist regimes, and current authoritarian regimes in China, Iran, and on the African continent. The course comes in three main sections: an introduction to concepts and types, an exploration of various historical types using country examples, and a discussion of authoritarian regime

**For IR 206:**

Students are expected to attend class regularly, do the assigned reading, complete all assignments, and participate in class discussions and activities. The assignments comprise in-class participation (20%), a sixty minute in-class midterm at the beginning of class on **November 9th** (10%), a five-page paper due at the beginning of class on **October 26th** (20%), a five-page paper due by email on **December 15th by 3:30 PM** (20%), and a brief (sixty minutes) final exam on **December 16, 2015 at 4:00 PM** (20%). Please consult *Writing with Sources* for



There will be no make-up work for students who fail to turn in final projects on time or miss classes. Be sure to contact your peers for class notes. I am happy to discuss the material with you, but I do not offer individual recap sessions.

### **Academic Honesty:**

Students and faculty at the University must agree to adhere to high standards of academic honesty in all of the work that we do. As freshmen, students read and sign an academic honesty policy statement to indicate that they understand the general principles upon which our work is based. The College Board on Academic Honesty website gives further information on our policies and procedures: [www.rochester.edu/college/honesty](http://www.rochester.edu/college/honesty)

In this course the following additional requirements are in effect:

You are encouraged to discuss course readings and assignments with your fellow students. However, all written work must be done independently and not in collaboration with another. In order to make appropriate help available for your essays, I encourage you to consult with me and with the College Writing Center. The term research pa

Be sure to cite all your sources. When in doubt, add a footnote or endnote. In-text citations are acceptable. All reports and independent papers should contain a bibliography at the end. Wikipedia is not considered a reliable source of information for this class, and should never be cited as an authority.

Any instance of plagiarism will result in zero credit for the assignment and referral of the student(s) involved to the College Board on Academic Honesty.

### **Letters of Recommendation:**

I am happy to write letters of recommendation for graduate school and for enrichment programs. I need **at least** two weeks advance notice to prepare a letter, and I may ask for a meeting or conversation to further discuss your interests and achievements. Requests made within fourteen days of the deadline will be denied.

### **Course Outline**

**Students should come to class prepared to discuss all readings assigned for that week and for prior weeks.**

**I reserve the right to drop or replace readings to better direct learning and sharpen the focus of the course. All readings are required.**

1. August 31, 2015  
Introduction

Gandhi, Jennifer. 2008. *Political Institutions under Dictatorship*. New York: Cambridge University Press. p. 1-34.

I. Theories of Authoritarianism

2. September 7  
NO CLASS LABOR DAY

3. September 14  
Definitions and Conceptualizations

*Annual Review of Political Science* 2:115-144.

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce, Alastair Smith, Randolph Siverson, and James Morrow. 2003. *The Logic of Political Survival*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. Chapters  
[online at library website]

*Electoral Authoritarianism: The Dynamics of Unfree Competition*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

4. September 21  
Why Authoritarian Regime Type Matters

Authoritarian Institutions and the Survival of  
*Comparative Political Studies* 40: 1279-1301.

Weeks, J  
*International Organization* 62(1): 35-64.

Do Authoritarian Institutions Constrain? How Legislatures Affect  
Economic Growth and Investment *American Journal of Political Science* 52(2): 322-343.

II. Totalitarian Regimes

5. September 28  
Totalitarian Regimes I

Arendt, Hannah. 1951. *The Origins of Totalitarianism*. New York: Harcourt, Brace. Part III:  
Totalitarianism. [on library reserve]

6. October 5  
NO CLASS Fall Break

7. October 12  
Totalitarian Regimes II

*World Politics*

49(3): 401-429.

*Soviet Studies* 35(3): 275-297.

Pyongyang's Survival Strategy: Tools of Authoritarian  
Control in North Korea *International Security* 35(1): 44-74.

### III. Maintenance of Power and Regime Types

8. October 19  
Military Regimes: Bureaucratic Authoritarianism in Latin America

*Latin American Research Review* 13(1): 3-38.

zation, and Opposition in Bureaucratic-  
*Comparative Politics* 17(1): 37-54.

Stepan, Alfred C. 1988. *Rethinking Military Politics: Brazil and the Southern Cone*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Ch. 1-3.

9. October 26  
**First five-page paper due**  
Personalist Regimes: Congo and the Dominican Republic

Chehabi, Houchang E. and Juan Linz. 1998. *Sultanistic Regimes*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. Ch. 1, 4.

Acemoglu, Daron, James Robinson, and -and-  
. 1. 1. 1

Saich, Anthony. 2011. *Governance and Politics of China*. New York: Palgrave-Macmillan. Ch. 5-6.

*The China Quarterly* 219: 625-648.

*American Journal of Political Science*

58(2): 402-414.

11. November 9

**In-class midterm at beginning of class**

Authoritarian Political Parties: Egypt under the NDP

Brownlee, Jason. 2007. *Authoritarianism in an Age of Democratization*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Ch. 1-3.

*Comparative Political Studies* 43(7): 807-834.

IV. Paths out of Authoritarianism

12. November 16

Electoral Authoritarian Regimes: Why hold elections?

Levitsky, Steven and Lucan Way.  
*Journal of Democracy* 13(2): 51-65.

*The*

*Democracy* 23(2): 19-33.

*The Journal of*

Howard, M

*American Journal of Political Science* 50(2): 365-381.

13. November 23

Electoral Authoritarian Regimes: Opposition Strategies

Arriola, Leonardo. 2  
*World Politics* 65(2): 233-272.

*American Journal of Political Science* 54(3): 751-765.

*Journal of Democracy*

Transitions out of Communism: Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union

Transitions in the Post-Communist World: The Impact of Democracy And Dictatorship: Noncooperative  
*World Politics* 54(2): 212-244.

the Impact on Regime



	A (Above Standards)	B (Meets Standards)	C (Approaching Standards)	D (Below Standards)	E (No credit)
	100%	90%	80%	70%	0%
Reading (50 points)	Student has carefully read and understood the readings as evidenced by familiarity with main ideas, supporting evidence and secondary points. Comes to class prepared with questions and critiques of the readings.	Student has read and understood the readings as evidenced by grasp of the main ideas and evidence. Comes prepared with questions and critiques of the readings.	Student has read the material, but comments often indicate that he/she misunderstood or forgot many points or has not thought about questions or critiques of the readings.	Student comes to class unprepared, as indicated by unwillingness or inability to answer basic questions or contribute to discussion.	Non-attendance
Listening (50 points)	Always attends to what others say as evidenced by regularly building on, clarifying, or responding to their comments.	Generally attends to what others say as evidenced by periodically building on, clarifying, or responding to their comments.	Does not regularly listen well as indicated by the repetition of comments or questions presented earlier, or frequent non sequiturs.	Behavior frequently reflects a failure to listen or attend to the discussion as indicated by repetition of comments and questions, non sequiturs, off-task activities.	Non-attendance

A (Above Standards)  
100%

B (Meets Standards)  
90%

C (Approaching Standards)  
80%

D (Below Standards)  
70%

Completeness  
(10 points)

	A (Above Standards)	B (Meets Standards)	C (Approaching Standards)	D (Below Standards)
	100%	90%	80%	70%
	<p>All parts of the assignment are addressed</p> <p>Ideas are provided in a logical and organized order that makes it easy to follow the author's argument and thoughts. The author provides guidance to readers. Grammatical and spelling errors are minimal.</p>	<p>A minor part of the assignment is unaddressed or it is unclear how the author is addressing it.</p> <p>Ideas are provided in a fairly logical order that makes it not too hard for readers to follow the argument. Grammatical and spelling errors occur.</p>	<p>A major part of the assignment is unaddressed or it is unclear how the author is addressing it.</p>	<p>Two or more major parts of the assignment are unaddressed or it is unclear how the author is addressing them.</p>