

POLITICAL SCIENCE 149W: Dictatorship and its Discontents
Version 9/3/2014

Lecture: Monday, 4-7pm, 126 Barrows Hall, Final Exam Group 13
Section 101: Th 11-12, 289 Cory
Section 102: Th 1-2, 185 Barrows

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: The overwhelming majority of governments throughout history have been dictatorial. Even the recent spread of democracy has not extirpated authoritarian rule: in 2013 roughly 25% of all countries in the world were unambiguously “unfree.” Whatever the benefits of democracy, it seems dictatorship is here to stay. This course explores the characteristics and dynamics of non-democratic regimes: how and why they come about, what sustains them, why some people resist them and others do not, and how and why they decline and fall. We will explore a variety of examples from across the world. Using films and novels in addition to political science literature, we will investigate how dictators maintain their power, how ordinary people react to repression, and the links between dictatorship and security and economic development.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Students are expected to attend class regularly, do the assigned reading, complete all exams, and participate in any in-class discussions. The grade for this course will be based on two 8-12 page papers (15% each), one midterm (20%), a final exam (40%), and class/section participation (10%). The exam will be a mixture of multiple choice, identification, and short essay. More information about both the papers and the exams will be provided during the semester. I do not grade on a curve, so you are not competing with your classmates for A’s. Everyone who does A-level work will receive an A. But you must attend class and section, write the papers, and take all exams to get a passing grade in the course.

Academic misconduct, also known as cheating and/or plagiarism, will not be tolerated. If you are caught cheating I reserve the right to fail you in the course. For information on what constitutes misconduct please see: <http://sa.berkeley.edu/conduct>

COURSE READER: The reader for this course is available at University Copy, 2425 Channing Way (549-2335). Readings available on bCourses are marked as such.

BOOKS FOR PURCHASE: The following books are **REQUIRED** and available for purchase at the ASUC bookstore.

Bruce Bueno de Mesquita and Alastair Smith, *The Dictator's Handbook: Why Bad Behavior is Almost Always Good Politics*. (Public Affairs, 2011).

Tina Rosenberg, *Haunted Land: Facing Europe's Ghosts After Communism*. (Vintage, 1995).

Yevgeny Zamyatin, *We*. (Modern Library, 2006).

Both the reader and required books will also be available on reserve.

IMPORTANT NOTE: New and better readings are always coming to my attention. I therefore reserve the right to add and subtract from the syllabus.

Class Rules

1. I realize we live in a wired world, but personal technology is a distraction during lecture. Please keep your laptops, smartphones, and other electronic gadgetry off during lecture. For note-taking you will need to bring paper and a writing implement. If you have a disability that necessitates electronic assistance, please see me to request an exception. A doctor's note will be required.
2. I do not post my lecture notes online, but lecture slides will be posted on bCourses.
3. I do not allow students to make announcements to the class regarding any extracurricular activity.
4. I do not hand out study sheets before exams. Part of mastering the material is learning to distinguish between important themes and incidental facts, a process the GSI and I are happy to assist you with.
5. Please report any suspected errors in the grading of an assignment within one week of receiving the grade. I reserve the right not to effect a grade change if an issue is reported after more than one week has passed.
6. Syllabi are wonderful documents with lots of information on the time and place of office hours, the dates of exams, and course requirements. Please do not ask for information contained in the syllabus. If you do, the answer will be RTFS.
7. Unless otherwise specified no appointment or prior warning is necessary to come to my office hours. Please do not ask if you can come to office hours because the answer is always "yes." Come as often as you like.

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES/READING

Week 1, Sept 8: Introduction and a Premonition

Jason Wittenberg, Syllabus for POLITICAL SCIENCE 149W: Dictatorship and its Discontents.

Yevgeny Zamyatin, *We*. (Modern Library, 2006).

Week 2, Sept 15: The Origins and Dilemmas of Dictatorship (First paper assignment handed out; paper due Oct 13 in class.)

Bueno de Mesquita and Smith, Chap. 1 (also on bCourses).

Stephen Haber, "Authoritarian Government," in Barry Weingast and Donald Wittman, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Political Economy*. (Oxford University Press, 2006).

Mancur Olson, *Power and Prosperity: Outgrowing Communist and Capitalist Dictatorships*. (Basic Books, 2000), pp. 1-14.

Albert Somit and Steven A. Peterson, *Darwinism, Dominance and Democracy: The Biological Bases of Authoritarianism*. (Praeger, 1997), pp. 3-14; 51-84.

Ronald Wintrobe, "How to understand, and deal with dictatorship: an economist's view," *Economics of Governance* 2 (2001), pp. 35-58. Skip part 3: "Dealing with dictatorship."

Documentary: Karl Marx and Marxism (Video/C 6169: 52 mins) OR
Whatever Happened to Marx? (DVD 7443)

Week 3, Sept 22: The Temptations of Tyranny

Norman Cohn, *The Pursuit of the Millennium*. (Secker & Warburg, 1957), pp. 1-32.

Erich Fromm, *Escape from Freedom*. (Avon Books, 1964 [1941]), pp. xii-38. (bCourses)

Mark Lilla, "The Lure of Syracuse," *New York Review of Books*, Vol. 48, Issue 14, Sept. 2001.

Ian Buruma, "The Indiscreet Charm of Tyranny," *New York Review of Books*, Vol. LII, No. 8, May 12, 1995, pp. 35-37.

Arthur Koestler, "Arthur Koestler," in Richard Crossman, ed., *The God That Failed*. (Harper & Brothers, 1949), pp. 15-75.

Short video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dK6GdrZ4rSg>

Short video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eAprW14F-8k>

Short Film: The Wave (DVD X5610: 46 mins)

Week 4: Sept 29: Taking and Transferring Power

Natasha Ezrow and Erica Frantz, *Dictators and Dictatorships: Understanding Authoritarian Regimes and their Leaders*. (Continuum, 2011), pp. 81-112.

Bueno de Mesquita and Smith, Chap. 2.

Jason Brownlee, "Hereditary Succession in Modern Autocracies," *World Politics*, Vol. 59, July 2007, pp. 595-628. (bCourses)

John H. Herz, "The Problem of Successorship in Dictatorial Régimes: A Study in Comparative Law and Institutions," *Journal of Politics*, Vol. 14, No. 1, February 1952, pp. 19-40. (bCourses)

Documentary: The Africans: A Triple Heritage: A Commentary. Part 6: In Search of Stability (DVD X6377: 58 mins)

Week 5: Oct 6: Maintaining Power

Bueno de Mesquita and Smith, Chaps. 3-6.

E.A. Rees, "Leader Cults: Varieties, Preconditions and Functions," in Balázs Ápor et al., eds., *The Leader Cult in Communist Dictatorships: Stalin and the Eastern Bloc*. (Palgrave, 2004), pp. 3-26.

Gale Stokes, "The Purge Trials," in Gale Stokes, ed., *From Stalinism to Pluralism*. (Oxford University Press, 1991), pp. 66-77.

Michael Bratton and Eldred Masunungore, "Zimbabwe's Long Agony," *Journal of Democracy*, 19, 4 (October 2008), pp. 41-55. (bCourses)

Documentary: The Cult of Personality (Video/C 5699: 51 mins)

Week 6: Oct 13: Totalitarian Aspirations: North Korea (First paper due and second paper assignment handed out; paper due Dec 1 in class.)

Robert Collins, *Marked for Life: Songbun, North Korea's Classification System*. (Washington, DC: The Committee for Human Rights in North Korea, 2012), excerpts. (bCourses)

B.R. Myers, *The Cleanest Race: How North Koreans See Themselves—and Why it Matters*. (Melville House, 2009), pp. 25-66.

Barbara Demick, *Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North Korea*. (Spiegel & Grau, 2009), pp. 36-73; 174-184.

UNHRC, "Report of the commission of inquiry on human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea." Summary, February 7, 2014, pp. 1-21. (Should take this with a grain of salt given Human Rights Council's membership.) (bCourses)

Documentary: The VICE Guide to North Korea (online)

Week 7, Oct 20: Midterm Exam

Week 8, Oct 27: Making Autocracy Work: China

James C.F. Wang, *Contemporary Chinese Politics: An Introduction*. Seventh Edition. (Prentice Hall, 2002), pp. 1-68.

Andrew J. Nathan, "Authoritarian Impermanence," *Journal of Democracy*, Volume 20, No. 3, July 2009, pp. 37-40.

Minxin Pei, "Is CCP Rule Fragile or Resilient?," *Journal of Democracy*, Volume 23, No. 1, January 2012, pp. 27-41. (bCourses)

Documentary: China from the Inside, Part I: Power and the People (DVD 7397: 60 mins)

Week 9, Nov 3: Strategies of Popular Resistance (and the Dictator's Response)

Bueno de Mesquita and Smith, Chap. 8.

James C. Scott, "Everyday Forms of Resistance," in Forrest D. Colburn, ed., *Everyday Forms of Peasant Resistance*. (M.E. Sharpe, 1989), pp. 3-33.

Jason Wittenberg, *Crucibles of Political Loyalty: Church Institutions and Electoral Continuity in Hungary*. (Cambridge University Press, 2006), selections.

Timur Kuran, "Now Out of Never: The Element of Surprise in the East European Revolution of 1989," *World Politics* 44, October 1991, pp. 7-48. (bCourses)

Yongshun Cai, "Power Structure and Regime Resilience: Contentious Politics in China," *British Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 38, 2008, pp. 411-432.

Week 10, Nov 10: Islam and Authoritarianism?

M. Steven Fish, *Are Muslims Distinctive? A Look at the Evidence*. (Oxford, 2011), Chap. 7. (bCourses)

Larry Diamond, "Why Are There No Arab Democracies?," *Journal of Democracy*, Volume 21, Number 1, January 2010, pp. 93-104. (bCourses)

Marc F. Plattner, "The Global Context," *Journal of Democracy*, Volume 22, Number 4, October 2011, pp. 5-12. (bCourses)

Lucan Way, "The Lessons of 1989," *Journal of Democracy*, Volume 22, Number 4, October 2011, pp. 17-27. (bCourses)

Week 11, Nov 17: Chaos and Survival: Mobutu's Zaire and the Aftermath

Michela Wrong, *In the Footsteps of Mr. Kurtz; Living on the Brink of Disaster in the Congo*. (London: Fourth Estate, 2000).

Documentary: Mobutu, King of Zaire, Part 2 (Video/C 7200: 52 mins)

Week 12, Nov 24: Coping with the Legacy of Dictatorship

Tina Rosenberg, *The Haunted Land*.

Documentary: Malajunta (Video/C5179: 58 mins)

Week 13, Dec 1: The Future of Dictatorship (Second paper due.)

Readings TBA

Week 14, Dec 8: Reading Week (In-Class Review)

FINAL EXAM: GROUP 13, THURSDAY, DEC 18, 8-11AM