POLITICAL SCIENCE 210: Authoritarianism
Mon. 2:00-4:00pm, 706 Barrows Hall

Professor Jason Wittenberg
732 Barrows Hall
Spring, 2011 Office hours: Tuesday 10:00am-12:00pm
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Course Description: This seminar explores the characteristics and dynamics of non-democratic regimes: how and why they come about, what sustains them, why some people resist and others do not, and how and why they decline and fall. There are no formal methodological prerequisites for this course. However, during our journey through autocracy we will encounter a variety of approaches, including formal, large-N statistical, small-N qualitative, narrative, and literary. Some of the readings may employ techniques with which you are not familiar. We will not spend lots of time on methods per se, but you should consider those readings notice that you will eventually have to get up to methodological speed to understand cutting-edge research. In any case, you should try to do the best you can for whatever level of methodological training you have.

Requirements: Two-thirds of your grade will be based on a term paper, due in my mailbox by Friday, May 6, 5:00pm. You are free to choose any topic you wish, provided that it is relevant to the course. Be sure you discuss the topic with me in advance. A one-page synopsis of your proposed paper is due in class on March 14. One-third of your grade will be based on class participation and short reaction papers to be circulated to me and the other class members no later than 8:00pm on the Sunday before class meets. These papers, to be no more than three pages long, should not be mere descriptions of the weekly readings. They could, for example, elaborate on a theoretical point, propose and discuss an alternative hypothesis, or identify methodological shortcomings. Please come to class prepared to critically discuss issues raised in the readings.

Course Readings

ELECTRONIC READINGS:
Many of the readings are uploaded onto bSpace. These are marked as (E) on the syllabus.

COURSE READER:
Other non-electronic readings are available in a reader, available at University Copy, 2425 Channing Way (549-2335). These are marked as (R) in the syllabus.

BOOKS FOR PURCHASE (at the ASUC bookstore and/or Ned’s):

A copy of the reader and the books will be placed on reserve. Please note: I reserve the right to add or subtract readings as needed.

1. (January 24): Class Cancelled!

2. (January 31): Introduction and a Premonition


3. (February 7): Approaches to Studying Authoritarianism


4. (February 14): Origins of Authoritarianism


5. (February 21): Academic Holiday. No class!

6. (February 28): Why Do People Obey? Is it Voluntary?


7. (March 7): Why Do People Obey? Is it Coerced?


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


9. (March 21): Spring Break. No class!
10. (March 28): Varieties of Authoritarianism


11. (April 4): Making Autocracy Work


12. (April 11): Authoritarian Survival and Succession


13. (April 18): Popular Resistance to Autocracy


Jason Wittenberg, *Crucibles of Political Loyalty: Church Institutions and Electoral Continuity in Hungary*. (Cambridge University Press, 2006), Chapters 1,4. (E)


14. (April 25): Islamic Authoritarianism?


M. Steven Fish, “Islam and Authoritarianism,” *World Politics* 55, October 2002, pp. 4-37. (E)

Daniela Donno and Bruce Russett, “Islam, Authoritarianism, and Female Empowerment: What are the Linkages?,” *World Politics* 56, July 2004, pp. 582-607. (E)


15. (May 2): Reading Period. No class!

**Papers due by Friday, May 6, 5:00pm**