PS 149W: DICTATORSHIP AND ITS DISCONTENTS

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Summer 2017
Lecture: M-Th 10-12, 390 Hearst Mining
Section: 101: Fri 10-12, 219 Dwinelle
Section: 102: Fri 12-2, 182 Dwinelle

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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: as of 2017 Freedom House rates on 45% of countries as fully free. 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 midterms (30% each), one paper (20%), and class/section participation (20%). 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 paper, 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.


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

Topic 1: Introduction and a Premonition

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

Topic 2: The Origins and Dilemmas of Dictatorship

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

Topic 3: The Temptations of Tyranny  (Paper topics handed out)


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)

Topic 4: Taking and Transferring Power

Bueno de Mesquita and Smith, Chap. 2.

**Topic 5: Maintaining Power**

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

Documentary: The Cult of Personality (Video/C 5699: 51 mins)
On Nicolae Ceausescu: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U_PP0dRbMFI

**Topic 6: Totalitarian Aspirations: North Korea**


Documentary: TBD

**Review Session**

**Midterm Exam**

**Topic 7: Making Autocracy Work: China**

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)

**Topic 8: Strategies of Popular Resistance (and the Dictator’s Response)**

Bueno de Mesquita and Smith, Chap. 8.

**Topic 9: Islam and Authoritarianism?**

M. Steven Fish, Are Muslims Distinctive? A Look at the Evidence. (Oxford, 2011), Chap. 7. (bCourses)
Tarek Masoud, “Has the Door Closed on Arab Democracy?” Journal of Democracy, January 2015. (bCourses)
E. Jahn, “Democratization of the Restoration of Dictatorship as the Outcome of the Arab Rebellion,” World Political Challenges, Springer Verlag, 2015. (bCourses)
Economist Intelligence Unit, Democracy Index 2016.

**Topic 10: Coping with the Legacy of Dictatorship**


Documentary: Malajunta (Video/C5179: 58 mins)
Topic 10: Nascent Dictatorship?


https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k_7EjaMu0ic (Hungary, 28 minutes)

Topic 11: Future of Dictatorship

Review Session (Paper due)

Midterm Exam