

PL SC 414: Dictators and Their Demise
Fall 2014

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T R 1-215pm
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Course Description: This class will focus on explaining what a dictatorial regime is and the differences between types of dictatorial regimes. We will look at how dictators maintain their rule and how they fall from power. We will also look at the impact a dictatorial regime has on the development of a country. We will begin theoretically by looking at how dictatorial regimes are defined within Political Science and then move onto the consequences dictatorships have. These weeks of the course will combine theory readings with case studies to illustrate the theoretical points being made. The second section of the course looks at a series of case studies before ending with a week on transitions from dictatorships.

Course Aims:

1. To understand the differences between dictatorships and democracy
2. To understand the differences between different types of dictatorships
3. To understand how dictatorship can impact economic development, human rights, conflict, and political institutions
4. To understand how dictators maintain their rule and how this can fail
5. To understand how to write a research paper

Requirements: Students are expected to (1) attend all lectures; (2) complete the required reading before the start of each class; (3) complete the 4 written exercises; (4) complete a midterm exam; (5) complete a final research paper

Grading: 4 exercises @ 10% each (40%), Midterm 25%, Research Paper 25%, attendance and participation 10%

Grade Scale: A: 95-100; A-: 90-94.9; B+: 87.9-89.9; B: 83.33-87.8; B-: 80-83.32; C+: 75-79.9; C: 70-74.9; D: 60 to 69.9; FAIL: 0-59.9

Late Assignments: Each assignment is due at 1 PM (a paper copy in person, in class) on the assigned date. Late assignments accrue a penalty of one letter grade (e.g. B+ becomes C+) each 24-hour period until the assignment is given to the instructor. After 96 hours, no late assignment is accepted. Students who arrive late to class (after 1 PM) cannot hand in assignments without accruing the late penalty.

Late Exams: Students who miss the mid-term exam will be required to take alternative exams at a later date at the professor's discretion. Typically, late exams are conducted at **7:00 AM**

Schedule of Classes & Readings

Week 1: How do we define dictatorships? How are they different from democracies?

(8/26) Introduction – no readings

(8/28) Clark, Golder, & Golder – Three Measures of Democracy
Zakaria – The Rise of Illiberal Democracy

Week 2: Are all dictatorships the same?

(9/2) Cheibub, Gandhi & Vreeland (2010) – Dictatorship and Democracy Revisited
Weeks (2008) – Autocratic Audience Costs

(9/4) Schedler (2002) – The Menu of Manipulation

Week 3: How do dictatorships survive? How do they fail?

(9/9) Gandhi & Przeworski (2007) – Authoritarian Institutions and the Survival of Autocrats

Bratton & Masunungure (2008) – Zimbabwe's Long Agony

(9/11) Bellin (2004) – The Robustness of Authoritarianism in the Middle East

Week 4: Succession within dictatorships

(9/16) Hertz (1952) – The Problem of Successorship in Dictatorial Regimes
Brownlee (2007) – Hereditary Succession

(9/18) The Economist (2011) - Succession in North Korea: available at:
<http://www.economist.com/node/21542227>

Assignment One due

Week 5: Dictatorships and conflict

(9/23) Weeks (2012) - Strongmen and Straw Men: Authoritarian Regimes and the Initiation of International Conflict

Peceny, Beer & Sanchez-Terry (2002) – Dictatorial Peace?

(9/25) Stanton (2013) – Terrorism and Civil War

Week 6: Economic implications

(9/30) Olsen (1993) – Dictatorship, Democracy and Development

Haber (2006) – The Logic of Authoritarian Government

(10/2) Sen – Famine and Other Crises

Week 7: Human rights implications

(10/7) Hafner-Burton (2007) – Justice Lost! The Failure of International Human Rights Law to Matter Where Most Needed

(10/9) No Class

Week 8: Electoral Dictatorships

- (10/14) Levitsky & Way – The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism
Gandhi & Lust-Okar (2009) – Elections Under Authoritarianism

Assignment Two due

- (10/16) Freedom House – A Dictator’s Guide to Rigging Elections, available at:
http://www.freedomhouse.org/blog/dictator%E2%80%99s-guide-rigging-elections-lessons-learned-zimbabwe%E2%80%99s-puppet-master#.U_dh8f10yM8

Week 9: Personalist Rule

- (10/21) Jackson & Rosberg (1984) – Personal Rule: Theory and Practice in Africa
Bratton & van der Walle (1994) – Neo-patrimonial Regimes and Political Transitions in Africa
(10/23) New York Times (1997) – Anatomy of an Autocratic: Mobutu’s 32-year Reign, available at:
<http://partners.nytimes.com/library/world/africa/051797zaire-mobutu.html>

Week 10: Military Rule

- (10/28) Mouzelis (1986) – On the Rise of Postwar Military Dictatorships
Ihonvbere (1996) – Are Things Falling Apart? The Military and the Crisis of Democratization in Nigeria
(10/30) **Mid-term**

Week 11: China

- (11/4) Lawrence (2013) – Understanding China’s Political System
Economist – The Brains of the Party, available at:
<http://www.economist.com/blogs/analects/2014/03/chinese-politics>
(11/6) Dissent Magazine (2013) – China’s Youth: Do They Care About Politics?
available at: <http://www.dissentmagazine.org/article/chinas-youth-do-they-dare-to-care-about-politics>

Week 12: Uganda

- (11/11) Kasozi – Amin chapter
Jackson & Rosberg – Amin chapter
(11/13) Oloka-Onyango (2004) – “New Breed” Leadership, Conflict and Reconstruction in the Great Lakes Region of Africa
Assignment Three due

Week 13: Mexico

- (11/18) Magaloni – Voting for Autocracy (28-42, 44-55, 82-108)
(11/20) No Class

Week 14: Thanksgiving – No classes

Week 15: Egypt

(12/2) Blaydes – Elections and distributive politics in Mubarak's Egypt (26-47, 148-170)

Assignment Four due

(12/4) Masoud (2011) – The Road to Liberation Square

Week 16: Political Transitions

(12/9) Geddes (2009) – What causes democratization?

(12/11) Huntington – How countries democratise

Hadenius & Teorell (2007) – Pathways from Authoritarianism

Academic Dishonesty

The Department of Political Science, along with the College of the Liberal Arts and the University, takes violations of academic dishonesty seriously. Observing basic honesty in one's work, words, ideas, and actions is a principle to which all members of the community are required to subscribe. All course work by students is to be done on an individual basis unless an instructor clearly states that an alternative is acceptable. Any reference materials used in the preparation of any assignment must be explicitly cited. Students uncertain about proper citation are responsible for checking with their instructor. In an examination setting, unless the instructor gives explicit prior instructions to the contrary, whether the examination is inclass or takehome, violations of academic integrity shall consist but are not limited to any attempt to receive assistance from written or printed aids, or from any person or papers or electronic devices, or of any attempt to give assistance, whether the one so doing has completed his or her own work or not. Lying to the instructor or purposely misleading any Penn State administrator shall also constitute a violation of academic integrity. In cases of any violation of academic integrity it is the policy of the Department of Political Science to follow procedures established by the College of the Liberal Arts. More information on academic integrity and procedures followed for violation can be found at: <http://www.la.psu.edu/documents/academic-integrity-form/view>

Students with Disabilities

Penn State welcomes students with disabilities into the University's educational programs. If you have a disability-related need for reasonable academic adjustments in this course, contact the Office for Disability Services. For further information regarding policies, rights and responsibilities please visit the Office for Disability Services (ODS) Web site at: <http://equity.psu.edu/ods>. Instructors should be notified as early in the semester as possible regarding the need for reasonable accommodations.