

# Political Science 244A/444A: Authoritarian Politics

Lisa Blaydes\*

Beatriz Magaloni†

Winter 2020

Class: 1:30-4:20 pm, Tuesday  
Office Hours: TBD

## Course Overview

This course offers a thematic approach to the study of authoritarian politics. We will cover the major areas of political science research on authoritarian politics and governance while simultaneously building empirical knowledge about the politics of particular authoritarian regimes. Students will be expected to produce a piece of original scholarly research related to the topic of authoritarian politics by the end of the quarter. Because this class is an advanced seminar, students will lead the discussion and also serve as discussants for the research projects of their fellow students.

## Evaluation

Students will be evaluated on the following basis:

1. *Class participation.* Students will help lead the seminar. Students will also discuss progress on their research paper during class.
2. *Research paper.* The research paper should reflect original empirical analysis — either qualitative or quantitative — or theory development, or both. Student papers will be due by the end of Finals Week.

Grades will be assigned based on the following weighting scheme:

30 percent: Class participation. 70 percent: Research paper.

Students will have the option to enroll in PS 244A/444A for 3, 4 or 5 units. The evaluation scheme is common for students enrolled for different numbers of units but the length of the research paper will vary depending on the units. For students enrolled for three units, an 8-10 page paper is required; four units, 10-15 pages; five units, 15-25 pages.

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## **Agenda of Topics and Readings**

All readings will be available on Courseworks. The agenda of topics and readings is as follows:

### **Week 1: Concepts and Definitions**

Gandhi, Jennifer and Adam Przeworski. 2006. "Cooperation, Cooptation, and Rebellion under Dictatorships." *Economics and Politics*. 18(1).

Geddes, Barbara, Joseph Wright and Erica Frantz. 2018. *How Dictatorships Work: Power, Personalization and Collapse*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1-2.

Magaloni, Beatriz. 2008. "Credible Power-Sharing and the Longevity of Authoritarian Rule." *Comparative Political Studies*. 41(4).

Svolik, Milan. 2012. *The Politics of Authoritarian Rule*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1.

### **Week 2: Varieties of Autocracy**

Gandhi, Jennifer. 2008. *Political Institutions under Dictatorship*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1.

Geddes, Barbara. 1999. "What do we know about Democratization after Twenty Years?" *Annual Review of Political Science*. 2.

Linz, Juan. 2000. *Totalitarian and Authoritarian Regimes*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner. Chapter 2.

Wintrobe, Ronald. 1998. *The Political Economy of Dictatorship*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1-2.

### **Week 3: Distribution, Redistribution, and Property Rights**

Albertus, Michael. 2015. *Autocracy and Redistribution*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1.

Albertus, Michael, Alberto Diaz-Cayeros, Beatriz Magaloni, and Barry Weingast. 2016. "Authoritarian Survival and Poverty Traps: Land Reform in Mexico." *World Development*. 77.

Hertog, Steffen. 2010. *Princes, Brokers and Bureaucrats: Oil and the State in Saudi Arabia*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. Chapter 1.

Hsieh, Chang-Tai, Edward Migel, Daniel Ortega and Francisco Rodriguez. 2011. "The Price of Political Opposition: Evidence from Venezuela's Maisanta." *American Economic Journal*. 3(2).

Reuter, Ora John and David Szakonyi. 2019. "Elite Defection under Autocracy: Evidence from Russia." *American Political Science Review*. 113(2).

#### **Week 4: Parties and Representation**

Geddes, Barbara, Joseph Wright and Erica Frantz. 2018. *How Dictatorships Work: Power, Personalization and Collapse*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 6.

Kung, James and Shuo Chen. 2011. "The Tragedy of the Nomenklatura: Career Incentives and Political Radicalism during China's Great Leap Famine." *American Political Science Review*. 105(1).

Magaloni, Beatriz and Ruth Kricheli. 2010. "Party Order and One-Party Rule." *Annual Review of Political Science*. 13.

Pan, Jennifer and Kaiping Chen. 2018. "Concealing Corruption: How Chinese Officials Distort Upward Reporting of Online Grievances." *American Political Science Review*. 112(3).

Shih, Victor, Chris Adolph, and Mingxing Liu. 2012. "Getting Ahead in the Communist Party: Explaining the Advancement of Central Committee Members in China." *American Political Science Review*. 106(1).

#### **Week 5: Elections and Parliaments**

Blaydes, Lisa. 2011. *Elections and Distributive Politics in Mubarak's Egypt*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 3.

Gandhi, Jennifer and Ellen Lust-Okar. 2009. "Elections Under Authoritarianism." *Annual Review of Political Science*. 12.

Herb, Michael. 2009. "A Nation of Bureaucrats: Political Participation and Economic Diversification in Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates." *International Journal of Middle East Studies*. 41.

Magaloni, Beatriz. *Voting for Autocracy: Hegemonic Party Survival and its Demise in Mexico*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press. Introduction and Chapter 1.

Treux, Rory. 2014. "The Returns to Office in a 'Rubber Stamp' Parliament." *American Political Science Review*. 108(2).

#### **Week 6: Repression**

Blaydes, Lisa. 2018. *State of Repression: Iraq under Saddam Hussein*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Chapter 1.

Finkel, Evgeny. 2015. "The Phoenix Effect of State Repression: Jewish Resistance during the Holocaust." *American Political Science Review*. 109(2).

Greitens, Sheena. *Dictators and their Secret Police: Coercive Institutions and State Violence*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 2.

Rozenas, Arturas and Yuri Zhukov. "Mass Repression and Political Loyalty: Evidence from Stalin's 'Terror by Hunger.'" *American Political Science Review*. 113(2).

Young, Lauren. 2018. "The Psychology of State Repression: Fear and Dissent Decisions in Zimbabwe." *American Political Science Review*. 113(1).

### **Week 7: Symbolic Politics and Public Expression**

Hainmueller, Jens and Holger Lutz Kern. 2009. "Opium for the Masses: How Foreign Media Can Stabilize Authoritarian Regimes." *Political Analysis*. 17.

King, Gary, Jennifer Pan, and Margaret Roberts. 2013. "How Censorship in China Allows Government Criticism but Silences Collective Expression." *American Political Science Review*. 107(2): 326-343.

Pan, Jennifer and Alexandra Siegal. forthcoming. "How Saudi Crackdowns Fail to Silence Online Dissent." *American Political Science Review*.

Rozenas, Arturas and Denis Stukal. 2019. "How Autocrats Manipulate Economic News: Evidence from Russia's State-Controlled Television." *Journal of Politics*. 81(3).

Wedeen, Lisa. 1998. "Acting 'As If': Symbolic Politics and Social Control in Syria." *Comparative Studies in Society and History*. 40(3): 502-523.

### **Week 8: Resistance**

Arriola, Leonardo. 2013. "Protesting and Policing in a Multiethnic Authoritarian State." *Comparative Politics*. 45(2).

Fu, Diana. 2017. *Mobilizing without the Masses: Control and Contention in China*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1.

O'Brien, Kevin. 1996. "Rightful Resistance." *World Politics*. 49(1): 31-55.

Kuran, Timur. 1991. "Now Out of Never: The Element of Surprise in the East European Revolution of 1989." *World Politics*. 44(1): 7-48.

Steinert-Threlkeld, Zachery. 2017. "Spontaneous Collective Action: Peripheral Mobilization during the Arab Spring." *American Political Science Review*. 111(2).

### **Week 9: How Dictatorships End?**

Geddes, Barbara, Joseph Wright and Erica Frantz. 2018. *How Dictatorships Work: Power, Personalization and Collapse*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 8.

Magaloni, Beatriz. 2010. "The Game of Electoral Fraud and the Ousting of Authoritarian Rule." *American Journal of Political Science*. 54(3).

McFaul, Michael. 2002. "The Fourth Wave of Democracy and Dictatorship: Noncooperative Transitions in the Postcommunist World." *World Politics*. 54(2).

Przeworski, Adam. 1991. *Democracy and the Market: Political and Economic Reforms in Eastern Europe and Latin America*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 2.

Solnick, Steven. 1996. "The Breakdown of Hierarchies in the Soviet Union and China: A Neoinstitutional Perspective." *World Politics*. 48(2).

### **Week 10: Authoritarian Politics in Democratic States**

King, Gary, Ori Rosen, Martin Tanner, and Alexander Wagner. 2008. "Ordinary Economic Voting Behavior in the Extraordinary Election of Adolf Hitler." *Journal of Economic History* 68(4).

Levitsky, Steven and Daniel Ziblatt. 2018. *How Democracies Die*. New York, NY: Crown. Introduction, Chapters 1 and 4.

Robert Mickey *Paths Out of Dixie: The Democratization of Authoritarian Enclaves in America's Deep South, 1944-1972* Princeton: Princeton University Press

Soss J, Weaver V. "Police are our government: Politics, political science, and the policing of race–class subjugated communities" *Annual Review of Political Science*. 2017 May 11;20:565-91.

Magaloni, Beatriz and Luis Rodriguez. 2019. "Torture as a Method of Criminal Investigation: Criminal Justice in Mexico" Working Paper.

### **Note for Students with Documented Disabilities**

Students who may need an academic accommodation based on the impact of a disability must initiate the request with the Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC) located within the Office of Accessible Education (OAE). SDRC staff will evaluate the request with required documentation, recommend reasonable accommodations, and prepare an Accommodation Letter for faculty dated in the current quarter in which the request is being made. Students should contact the SDRC as soon as possible since timely notice is needed to coordinate accommodations. The OAE is located at 563 Salvatierra Walk, (650) 723-1066.