**POL 228 Politics of Authoritarian Regimes**  
**Spring 2019**  
**Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:25pm – 2:40pm**

Professor Bahar Leventoğlu  
Office: 285 Gross Hall  
Phone: 660-4314  
E-mail: bl38@duke.edu  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 3:30pm – 5:30pm, or by appointment

Teaching Assistant: Ana Montoya  
E-mail: ana.montoya@duke.edu  
Office Hours: Mondays 1:30pm - 2:30pm at Perkins Cafe and Wednesdays 1:15pm to 2:00 pm at SSRI Cafe in Gross Hall

**Course Description**

Most of the world’s political regimes have historically been authoritarian. Even though, since the end of the Cold War, democratic regimes have come to outnumber their authoritarian counterparts, 40% of the world’s governments still remain authoritarian, and the majority of the world's population lives under authoritarian rule. Moreover, we have been witnessing rise of authoritarian populism in western societies over the last two decades. That is why any effort to understand the foundations of democratic regimes would be incomplete without studying authoritarian regimes.

The main goal of the course is for students to gain a good understanding of the difference between democratic and authoritarian regimes, learn about different types of authoritarian rule as well as how they maintain and exercise power. Even though we will talk about the potential these regimes have for democratic transition, our primary purpose is to examine the variety of ways in which authoritarian regimes operate and sustain. We will use contemporary events, historical case studies, as well as statistical data in order to examine real-world cases.

**Readings**

There is one required textbook.


Most of the articles are available online at Duke Libraries at [http://library.duke.edu/](http://library.duke.edu/) and denoted with an asterisk in the syllabus. Book chapters will be made available on Sakai.

**Grading**

a. **Class Participation**
Students should attend class regularly and participate actively and intelligently in class discussions. I do expect you to read every single piece from the reading list before class and come prepared for class discussion. Class participation will count for 10% of the final grade.

b. Exams

There are three exams. You can take any two or all three exams because your highest two scores out of three will count towards your final grade. Exams will be in-class and close-book and will have short answer and essay questions. Each exam counts 25% of the final grade. There is no final exam for this class.

c. Class Presentation and Paper

We will set aside some time early in the semester to organize class presentations. We will have teams of 3-4 people and each team is tasked with (i) preparing a 50-55 minute presentation on an assigned case study as well as prepare a list of questions to lead a 15-20 minute class discussion (iii) send me an electronic copy of the presentation (in power point format) and the discussion questions a day before the presentation and (iv) every team member will write an individual paper focusing and expanding on the case study (using standard 12-point font, double-spaced and with one-inch margins, numbered and stapled pages, with detailed bibliography and the final product should flow smoothly, be proof-read, and spell-checked) they have presented in class. All papers are due on May 1 Wednesday 5pm without exception and late submissions are not acceptable unless previously approved by me. I expect students to give me regular updates about the progress of teamwork and let me know of any problems immediately so I can intervene before it is too late.

I assign “starter” readings for each case study in the syllabus. I expect each team to use those as their point of departure and use other resources --- books, newspaper and journal articles, government documents, TV interviews, video clips, etc --- to put their presentations together. Class presentation (20%) and paper (20%) will count for 40% of the final grade.

d. Extra Credit and Gift Card Lottery

Students are encouraged to participate in the political science experimental subject pool. Students will receive 1 point of extra credit for each hour of participation in Political Science Research Pool (PSRP) studies. Students can earn a maximum of 2 points for the semester for this course. Besides, students who participated in studies in the PSRP will be entered into a $50 Amazon gift card lottery. More information about this option is available at: http://www.duke.edu/web/psrp. If you wish to participate, you can register at: http://duke-psrp.sona-systems.com.

Tentative Class Schedule: Please see this as a work in progress. We may add/delete material and update group presentation dates along the way. I will keep you updated!

January 10 Welcome and Course Introduction.

January 15 Authoritarian Regimes: Concepts


**January 17 Authoritarian Regimes: Origins**


**January 22 Classifying Authoritarian Regimes**


**January 24 Single Party Regimes**


**January 29, 31 Case Study: Mexico until 2000**


February 5 Case Study: China


* China from the Inside, Part I: A PBS Documentary https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qSFcAK5s4nU

February 7 Military Regimes


February 12 Case Study: Pinochet’s Chile


After Pinochet: The Healing of a Country’s Wounded Heart  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9lQZ4WWHOB8

DVD: A Force More Powerful: *Chile – Defeat of a Dictator*

February 14 Exam I

February 19 Case Study: Turkey until 2007


February 21 Personalist Regimes


February 26, 28 Propaganda, Cooptation, Repression, and Coercion


**March 5 Case Study: Stalin’s Great Terror**


**March 7 Case Study: North Korea**


*BBC Inside North Korea:* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2zDYrFE985g
March 12-14 Spring Break

March 19 Exam 2

March 21 Case Study: Erdogan’s Turkey


* Various Authors. 2012. Special Issue on Turkey under AKP. Journal of Democracy. 23(1).


March 26 Islam and Authoritarianism


March 28, April 2 Case Study: Iran


* BBC Online, Iran’s Nuclear Stand-off:  
  [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi-middle_east/4031603.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi-middle_east/4031603.stm)


**April 4 Media, Information and Communication**


**April 9 Case Study: Putin’s Russia**


April 11: Protest and Revolution


April 16 Case Study: The Arab Spring


April 18: The Global Rise of Authoritarianism --- Discussion! Everybody please come prepared to talk about the topic!


April 23: Exam 3

Important Notes:

I will not give make-up exams beyond restrictive University rules (illness, religious holiday, sports events). In case a make-up exam is absolutely necessary, you need to contact me early enough to make arrangements.

You need to submit any grade appeals on an exam no later than a week after I give the graded exams back with a written statement explaining clearly why you think you need a grade change. Note that I will re-grade your entire exam in the event of an appeal and your grade may go up but it may also go down.

I will not tolerate plagiarism and will follow Duke University’s policy regarding violations of academic integrity and the Duke Community Standard. If you are not sure what constitutes plagiarism, please visit the following website: https://plagiarism.duke.edu/