

Political Science 4952 Capstone Course in Political Science
DICTATORSHIPS & THE POLITICS OF AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES.

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There is a Blackboard site for this course where all copies of documents will be placed (e.g. the syllabus). Powerpoint files will appear AFTER each class. There will also be additional readings that appear on the Blackboard site (there is NOT a Canvas site for this course)

I. Goals and Objectives of the Course: This course is an advanced senior level capstone course in political science. As such it is designed to have students demonstrate critical thinking, analytical, and communication skills that you have presumably developed over the course of your college career. As such one thing we will be focusing on a primary goal of this course is to review how to conduct empirical research (which can be either quantitative or qualitative) in political science, and particularly in comparative politics. Thus, we will touch upon many of the topics you covered in PSCI 2300. There is also a good deal of reading that is required.

The substantive focus of this course is on politics of authoritarian states. During the course of the term we identify the differences between authoritarian and totalitarian states, examine the internal dynamics of such regimes, and then use for illustrative purposes the evolution of one of the most oppressive autocracies in the world, North Korea. This course is designed to expose the student to the politics of these little understood states by first providing a general overview of such regimes (particularly post communist states) and then focusing on the most extreme case- North Korea.

II. Texts: There are two required texts for this course:

Milan Svoblik 2012. *The Politics of Authoritarian Rule*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
(indicated by "Svoblik" in readings)

Sung Chull Kim. 2007. *North Korea under Kim Jong Il: From Consolidation to Systemic Dissonance*
Albany: State University of New York Press. (indicated by Sung Chull Kim in readings)

In addition, there are other assigned readings that will appear on the blackboard site for this course OR can be accessed via link indicated in this syllabus.

III. Course Requirements: (total points= 450)

a) There will be two examinations scheduled for this term

One in class midterm examination: (Thursday, October 11) = **100 points**

A comprehensive major final examination (Tuesday May 10, 2011, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.) = **125 Points**

b) Two announced quizzes (25 pts apiece for a total of **50 points**)

c) One major research paper (approximately 15-20 pages), divided into parts. Total = **175 points:**

- 1) A draft introduction and literature review due (October 30) = 25 points
- 2) A complete draft including design, analysis, results (due Monday December 10) = 100 points
- 3) Presentation of paper via a research poster = 50 pts (this assignment may change)

All written assignments are to be turned in to me via blackboard email

As a “capstone” course, this class will use an assessment tool, your performance on major research paper, which you will present as a research poster on one of two research presentation days.

The research project may be either a quantitative research design OR a complete qualitative research project. I will provide more on this in an assignment sheet which will be distributed later in the term

IV. Policy on attendance: I do not take regular attendance-- however I will take “spot attendance”. Thus, if you are not in class consistently I will know and this will affect my evaluation of your performance. I will take attendance in the first few weeks.

VI. Schedule of lecture topics and readings:

August 28: Introduction to the Class:

Go over research process, and some examples of research questions.

Read after class Leanne Powner “From Research Topic to Research Question” *Empirical Research and Writing* Chp 1(on Blackboard site)

NO CLASS THURSDAY August 30 (I will be away at a meeting out of town) -use this time to formulate a research question, which I will collect on September 6. It must relate to the subject matter of the class.

September 4-11: Introduction—systems theory, political development and understanding authoritarianism

Readings:

- Sung Chul Kim, Chp 1.
- Paul Sondrol (1991) “Totalitarian and Authoritarian Dictators: A Comparison of Fidel Castro and Alfredo Stroessner” *Journal of Latin American Studies* 23(3): especially 599-606 (on blackboard)
- Svolik Chp 1

September 13-18: Ideological legacies of totalitarianism

- Excerpt from Allan Todd (2002) *The European Dictatorships: Hitler, Stalin, Mussolini* New York: Cambridge University Press (on blackboard)
- Erik P. Hoffmann (1984) “The Evolution of the Soviet Political System” *Proceedings of the Academy of Political Science*, 35(3): 1-13. (on blackboard)

September 20—Movie ‘The Death of Stalin’

September 25-27: Theory and Literature Review

Readings

- Bradley Epperly (2011) “Institutions and Legacies: Electoral Volatility in the Postcommunist World” *Comparative Political Studies* 44(7) 829– 853.
- Powner chps 2 & 3 (on blackboard)

QUIZ 1 (will cover material from the class and movie)

September 27-October 2: Research Design and Methodology

Readings:

- Powner chps 4 & 7 (on blackboard)

October 4- 9 Comparative Perspectives on Authoritarianism

Readings:

- Svulik chp 2
- Barbara Geddes (1999) “Authoritarian Breakdown: An Empirical Test of a Game Theoretic Argument” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association. (on blackboard)
- Barbara Geddes, Joseph Wright, and Erica Frantz (2014) Autocratic Breakdown and Regime Transitions: A New Data Set” *Perspectives on Politics* 12(2) (on blackboard)

October 11 EXAM 1

October 16-18: Building authoritarian regimes

Readings:

- Svulik chp 3-4
- Paasha Mahdavi and John Ishiyama (2016) “Dynamics of the inner elite in dictatorships: Evidence from North Korea” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (on blackboard)

October 23 quiz 2

October-25 No class but work on introductions and literature reviews due October 30

October 30- November 1: The Case of North Korea

Readings:

- Sources of the North Korean Regime—Pre colonial and Colonial History “A Country Study: North Korea” on blackboard (Read chapter 1 by Bruce Cummings)

November 6-8: The evolution of the North Korean system under Kim Il Sung

Readings:

- Chong-Sik Lee (1967) “Kim Il-Song of North Korea” *Asian Survey* 7 (6): 374-382 (on blackboard)
- Soyoung Kwon (2003) “State building in North Korea: From a Self Reliant to a Military First State” *Asian Affairs* (on blackboard)

November 13-15: The Rise of Kim Jong-il

Readings:

- Sung Chull Kim, chps 2, 3, 6
- Andrew Scobell “Kim Jong Il and North Korea: The Leader and the System”
 - <http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pdf/files/pub644.pdf> (also on blackboard)

- Jei Guk Jeon “North Korean Leadership: Kim Jong Il’s Intergenerational Balancing Act” (on blackboard).

November 20-November 29 : The Transformation of the North Korean Polity since 1994

Readings:

- Sung Chull Kim, chps 4,5,7,8
- John Ishiyama (2014) “Assessing the leadership transition in North Korea: Using network analysis of field inspections, 1997-2012” *Communist and Post Communist Studies* 47(3): 137-146. (on blackboard)

December 4-6 Poster presentations

Final Examination: Thursday December 13, 2018, 8:00 – 10:00 am

V. Additional information

University of North Texas -- Department of Political Science

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STANDARDS AND CONSEQUENCES

According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. For additional information see the next segment (Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism and <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>).

POLICY ON CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

The UNT Code of Student Conduct and Discipline defines cheating and plagiarism as the use of unauthorized books, notes, or otherwise securing help in a test; copying others' tests, assignments, reports, or term papers; representing the work of another as one's own; collaborating without authority with another student during an examination or in preparing academic work; or otherwise practicing scholastic dishonesty.

Normally, the minimum penalty for cheating or plagiarism is a grade of "F" in the course. In the case of graduate departmental exams, the minimum penalty shall be failure of all fields of the exam. Determination of cheating or plagiarism shall be made by the instructor in the course, or by the field faculty in the case of departmental exams.

Cases of cheating or plagiarism on graduate departmental exams, theses, or dissertations shall automatically be referred to the departmental Graduate Studies Committee. Cases of cheating or plagiarism in ordinary coursework may, at the discretion of the instructor, be referred to the Undergraduate Studies Committee in the case of undergraduate students, or the Graduate Studies Committee in the case of graduate students. These committees, acting as agents of the department Chair, shall impose further penalties, or recommend further penalties to the Dean of Students, if they determine that the case warrants it. In all cases, the Dean of Students shall be informed in writing of the case.

Students may appeal any decision under this policy by following the procedures laid down in the UNT Code of Student Conduct and Discipline.

ADA ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an

accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation.

Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Access website at <https://disability.unt.edu/>.

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION & PROCEDURES

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Blackboard/Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

ACCEPTABLE STUDENT BEHAVIOR

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION – EAGLE CONNECT

Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: my.unt.edu. All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student's Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail: <http://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect>.

STUDENT EVALUATION ADMINISTRATION DATES

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14 and 15 of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via *IASystem* Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the SPOT website at www.spot.unt.edu or email spot@unt.edu.

SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct. Federal laws and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex as well as sexual misconduct. If you (or someone you know) is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565-2648.