Political Science 4700
Politics of Autocracies and Dictatorships.
Remote Class
Zoom link: https://unt.zoom.us/j/83113135511

Dr. John Ishiyama
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00-12:15 p.m. and by appointment
Office hours will be by zoom in my personal meeting room: https://unt.zoom.us/j/5952815816
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There is a Canvas site for this course where all copies of documents will be placed (e.g. the syllabus). Powerpoint files will appear AFTER each class. All lectures will be recorded to a Zoom cloud. There will also be additional readings that appear on the Canvas site

COVID-19 Advisory

If you are experiencing cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, or any of the other possible symptoms of COVID-19 (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html) please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu) or your health care provider.

I. Goals and Objectives of the Course: This course is an advanced senior level course in political science. 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 we will examine a variety of different authoritarian regimes, both current and historical.

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

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

III. Course Requirements: (total points= 375)

a) There will be two examinations scheduled for this term. Both are a combination of short answers and essays

One in class midterm examination: (distributed FEBRUARY 18 at 12 noon on Canvas, DUE FEBRUARY 19 at 12 noon) = 100 points. THIS IS A TAKE HOME SHORT ANSWER AND ESSAY EXAM. YOU WILL HAVE 24 HOURS TO COMPLETE THE EXAM AND TURN IT IN ON CANVAS.

A comprehensive major final examination (EXAMINATION DISTRIBUTED on Canvas April 28 at 5:00 pm, DUE April 29 at 11:59 PM) = 125 Points. THIS IS A TAKE HOME SHORT ANSWER AND ESSAY EXAM. YOU WILL COMPLETE THE EXAM AND TURN IT IN ON CANVAS.
Review sheets will be distributed on Canvas ONE WEEK before each exam

b) One major research paper (approximately 15-20 pages) Total = 150 points:

1) Paper on one autocratic country (not any county we cover in this class and not the United States) and you will justify why it is an authoritarian regimes, identify what type of regime it is and its institutional features (this assignment will be distributed later this semester) and prognosis for the future== 100 points.
2) Production of a virtual research poster base on paper = 50 pts (more on this later in the term)

All written assignments are to be turned in via Canvas

IV. Policy on attendance: I do not take regular attendance

V. Schedule of lecture topics and readings:

- **January 12:** Introduction to the Class:
  - No readings

- **January 14-19** systems theory, structural functionalism, and political development
  - Franz, Chps 1 and 3
  - Excerpts from Ishiyama (2012) Comparative Politics. Read pages 17-20 and 59-63 (on Canvas)

- **January 21-26:** The ideologies of autocracies and dictatorships

**Marxism, Communism, Fascism**

*Marxism*
- Karl Marx and Freidrich Engels “The Communist Manifesto”
  [https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1848/communist-manifesto/](https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1848/communist-manifesto/)
- Excerpt from Leon Baradat (2011) Political Ideologies “Marxism” (on Canvas)

*Communism*
- Vladimir Ilich Lenin “State and Revolution : chapter 1”
  [https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1917/staterev/ch01.htm](https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1917/staterev/ch01.htm)
- Excerpt from Leon Baradat (2011) Political Ideologies “Marxism after Marx” (on Canvas)

*Fascism*
  New York: Cambridge University Press (on Canvas)
• **January 28 – February 2.** Understanding dictatorship and its forms
  - Frantz, Chp 1 (Introduction).
  - Svolik Chp 1

• **February 4-9.** Types of authoritarian regimes
  - Frantz chp 5
  - Svolik chp 2
  - Barbara Geddes, Joseph Wright, and Erica Frantz (2014) Autocratic Breakdown and Regime Transitions: A New Data Set” *Perspectives on Politics* 12(2) (on Canvas)

• **February 11-18** How authoritarian leaders come to power, stay in power, and leave power
  - Frantz Chps 4, 6, 7, 8
  - Svolik chp 3-4

**MIDTERM EXAMINATION DISTRIBUTED FEBRUARY 18 at 12 noon on Canvas, DUE FEBRUARY 19 at 11:59 am**

**Examples of autocratic and transitional regimes**

• **February 23-March 2** The Soviet Union and Russia

• **March 4-16** The Peoples’ Republic of China
• “Understanding China’s Political System” Congressional Research Service (2013) (on Canvas).


• March 18-25 North Korea
  • Astuhito Isozaki (2017) Understanding the North Korean Regime (on Canvas)
  • Paasha Mahdavi and John Ishiyama (2020) “Dynamics of the inner elite in dictatorships: Evidence from North Korea” Comparative Politics (on Canvas)

• March 30-April 1 The curious case of Turkmenistan

• April 6-8 Ethiopia and the politics of ethnicity

• April 13- April 20: Mexico and its Transition in comparative perspective
  • John Ishiyama and Mikhail Rybalko (2021) “A Rumbling from Below? Opposition Party Campaigns, Regional Elections, and Transforming the Regime in Russia” Forthcoming in the Journal of Political Marketing (on Canvas)
April 22 Pre final day, Review

Thursday April 29—Final exam day EXAMINATION DISTRIBUTED on Canvas April 28 at 12 noon, DUE April 29 at 5:00 pm

VI. 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.