PO8056: Varieties of Authoritarianism
Syllabus
Hilary Term 2021
Time and location TBA

Instructor: Dr Noah Buckley
Email: buckleno@tcd.ie
Office: C6-003 in TRiSS in the Arts Building, 6th floor
Office Hours: TBA, online by appointment

Module Description and Objectives

This graduate seminar provides an overview of how authoritarian regimes are structured and the different strategies that authoritarian leaders use to stay in power. Each week we will discuss a set of “varieties” of authoritarian rule or dynamics of these regimes. Much like democracies come in many shapes and forms, so to do non-democracies. The goal of this module is to introduce you to the richness of styles and approaches that authoritarian leaders use to maintain their authority.

Assessment

Participation (15%)

Student attendance, participation, and discussion is crucial to this seminar. Students are expected to have read all required readings before class. You should plan on digging in deeply with each reading—you are advised to develop critiques of readings, connections between them, suggestions for improvement or future research, and to build links to other political science research before you arrive to discuss them with the group in class.

Students will be evaluated on the quality of their input in discussions. Asking questions, bringing evidence, explaining your views and thoughts, and debating issues of significance, relevance, research design, real-world applicability, accuracy, and other factors will be important in participating fully.

Reading Responses (20%)

Students will be required to submit four short responses—one in each of the four weeks of the module. These can be fairly short and informal. Each one should not offer a summary of the readings for that week, but, rather, they should engage with the readings in some substantive. Critiques, establishment of connections between readings, questions, and other insightful thoughts coming from a critical perspective are all good elements to include, where appropriate.

Each response paper should be 1-2 pages in length, double-spaced in 12pt font. They should be submitted to Blackboard by 9pm on the evening before class.
**In-class Presentation (15%)**

Students will each make one short, live presentation to the class in weeks 2-5 of the mini-term. The topics and structure of the presentations are TBA and scheduling will depend on module enrollment.

**Final essay (50%)**

Students are required to submit a final, long essay at the end of the mini-term. The essay should show engagement with the material from across the mini-module as well as readings, concepts, and ideas from the recommended reading list and/or other sources.

Details on the specific essay assignment will be provided in the first half of the module.

The essay should be about 2,500 words in length including everything but the reference list; double-spaced in 12pt font. The deadline for submission to Blackboard is **11:59pm (midnight) on [DATE TBA]**. Creativity, clear and strong argumentation, a good structure, and clear writing are important features of a good essay. The essay should not focus on literature review, historical narrative (or other narrative rather than analytical approaches), or pure summarization. I want to hear your thoughts and analysis.

**Plagiarism**

Please do not plagiarize. Academic dishonesty is a serious matter, with serious consequences that can result in receiving no credit for an assignment, a failing grade for the module, and even expulsion from the program. It is never permissible to turn in any work that contains others’ ideas without proper acknowledgment. It is your responsibility to make sure that your work meets the standard of academic honesty set forth in the College Calendar (see http://tcd.ie.libguides.com/plagiarism/calendar). If you are paraphrasing, cite the source. If you are quoting, use quotation marks and appropriate citation. Remember that academic integrity is a reflection of one’s character. In addition, we strongly recommend that you visit http://www.plagiarism.org/ for more information on what is and is not plagiarism. Lastly, students are required to only submit “new work” in each module, which means work that has not been submitted previously in any other university module. Students who wish to use previously submitted work as part of a new project will need the approval of the lecturer.

**Readings**

Some readings for the mini-module, such as book chapters, will be made available on Blackboard. Other readings can be found through the university library, on Google Scholar, etc.

**Note:** I may adjust the contents of the syllabus somewhat in the next few weeks as we work through the readings.
CLASS SCHEDULE

1. Autocracy and Autocratic Institutions


Recommended reading:

2. Personalism, Single-Party Rule, and Military Rule

Please read each of these:

And (at least) one of these:
- Juan J. Linz (2000) *Totalitarian and Authoritarian Regimes*, Ch. 3: Traditional Authority and Personal Rulership. (Sorry, I don’t have a copy of this to provide.)
Recommended reading:


3. Hybrid Regimes and Electoral Authoritarianism


Recommended reading:

4. Hybrid Regimes and Electoral Authoritarianism


**Recommended reading:**

5. Regime Change and Regime Cycles


**Recommended reading:**