COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is intended for advanced graduate students in political science. It will be most beneficial for students who have completed an introductory sequence of graduate statistical methods courses and a course in game theory. The seminar begins with a brief introduction to classical theories of authoritarian rule, and then surveys the current literature on comparative authoritarianism. The course covers: measures and typologies of authoritarian regimes; formal theories of authoritarian rule; political institutions (legislatures, parties, and elections) in authoritarian regimes; the consequences of authoritarian rule for growth and investment; protest in non-democratic settings; and authoritarian regimes in international relations research (conflict). Students are expected to produce original research on a topic related to authoritarian politics.

REQUIREMENTS: Students are expected to: (1) attend all seminars; (2) read assigned material and be prepared to discuss the material before each seminar meeting; (3) submit questions to the class before each seminar meeting; (4) lead seminar discussion; (5) complete 2 written assignments; and (6) complete two in-class research presentations.

GRADING: Seminar Participation (20%); Discussion leader (20%); Written assignments (40%); Presentations (20%)

GRADE SCALE: A: 95-100; A-: 90-94.9; B+: 87.9-89.9; B: 83.3-87.8; B-: 80-83.3; FAIL: 0-79.9

SEMINAR PARTICIPATION: Students are expected to attend each seminar, read the assigned material before each class, and be prepared to discuss assigned material. Before 6PM every Monday preceding the seminar, each student is expected to post three discussion questions on ANGEL.

Each week we are not doing presentations of written work, two students will present and critique the main readings. The instructor will walk through any formal models in readings denoted with a †.

Each class period will be divided into two 80 minutes periods. During the first period, we will do three things: (1) each student will provide a brief (3 minutes or less) oral response to the readings, highlighting one issue for discussion.; (2) the instructor will provide a brief 10-15 minute introduction to the topic under discussion; (3) discussants will give their presentation in front of the class (30 minutes max power points/illustrative graphs required). Following a 10-15 minute break, the second period of the class will be open discussion of the readings.

DISCUSSANT: The discussant’s presentation should not be a summary of the readings. Everyone has read the material; simply summarizing the material is typically boring and wastes our time. Instead, the presentation should accomplish the following.

- What do we need to know and why? (cocktail napkin) Each reading has a take-away point. The discussant should outline one (at most two) take-away point for each reading. (all readings)
Discuss the **theoretical assumptions**. Are they accurate? Are they necessary? How do the results change if we relax the key assumptions?

- Discuss the **testable implications** of the theory.
- Assess the quality of main **empirical finding**.
- What is the next step in this **research agenda**? The bulk of the presentation should address this point. Propose something: it doesn’t have to be right, just plausible. If you could have any type of data, how would you extend this research? Is there a case you know of that doesn’t fit the theoretical assumptions? How would you amend the theory to accommodate this data? Think about the readings as a whole.

**WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:** There will be two written assignments for this course.

1. A presentation of initial research question: motivating evidence, assumptions, theory and research design.

2. A research paper that either (i) provides initial empirical evidence for your theory or (ii) proposes an original coding scheme (and accompanying research design that utilizes the new data) for a concept relevant to authoritarian politics and to your research.

Students are expected to present the results from each assignment. Class presentations should be modeled after a conference presentation (12 minutes in length). The 1st written assignment is due the Sunday of Week 8 (5PM, electronic copy), preceding the class presentations in Week 8. The second written assignment is due Sunday of Week 16 (5PM, electronic copy), after your second class presentation. This allows time for you to incorporate comments from the presentation into the final paper.

**READING MATERIALS:** The following books are available at the book store or Amazon. Most required papers are available on Google scholar. Some **readings** will be posted to ANGEL.

BOILER PLATE: Academic Dishonesty: The Department of Political Science, along with the College of the Liberal Arts and the University, takes violations of academic dishonesty seriously. Observing basic honesty in one’s work, words, ideas, and actions is a principle to which all members of the community are required to subscribe. All course work by students is to be done on an individual basis unless an instructor clearly states that an alternative is acceptable. Any reference materials used in the preparation of any assignment must be explicitly cited. Students uncertain about proper citation are responsible for checking with their instructor. In an examination setting, unless the instructor gives explicit prior instructions to the contrary, whether the examination is in class or take home, violations of academic integrity shall consist but are not limited to any attempt to receive assistance from written or printed aids, or from any person or papers or electronic devices, or of any attempt to give assistance, whether the one so doing has completed his or her own work or not. Lying to the instructor or purposely misleading any Penn State administrator shall also constitute a violation of academic integrity. In cases of any violation of academic integrity it is the policy of the Department of Political Science to follow procedures established by the College of the Liberal Arts. More information on academic integrity and procedures followed for violation can be found at: http://tinyurl.com/n3q8ym

Disabilities: The Pennsylvania State University encourages qualified people with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities and is committed to the policy that all people shall have equal access to programs, facilities, and admissions without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by University policy or by state or federal authorities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation in this course or have questions about physical access, please tell the instructor as soon as possible. Reasonable accommodations will be made for all students with disabilities, but it is the student’s responsibility to inform the instructor early in the term. Do not wait until just before an exam to decide you want to inform the instructor of a learning disability; any accommodations for disabilities must be arranged well in advance. Flu: Please do not come to class if you have the flu. Email me and we can discuss how to make up lost time. For the official advice, see: http://tinyurl.com/mcth6t and http://tinyurl.com/mzyggw
Comparative Authoritarianism

READINGS: All readings are REQUIRED, except noted with a *. † indicates the required reading contains a formal model. Student presenter should meet with the instructor the week before class to discuss how to present the formal model to the class.

Week 1: Introduction & Scheduling

Week 2: Basic Models of Authoritarian Rule

Week 3: Origins (No Class: Parental Leave)

Week 4: Regimes and Typologies (Casper [Regimes] & Tamer [AR model]: Parental Leave)

Essential background:
Week 5: Personalism


Week 6: Military Rule

1. ONE of (A) or (B):


5. Debs, Alexandre. 2010. “Living by the Sword and Dying by the Sword? Leadership Transitions In and Out of Dictatorships.” Ms. ANGEL.

Week 7: Dominant Party Rule


Week 8: Presentations of 1st Assignment

Week 9: Elections


Week 10: Legislatures and Parties


Week 11: Growth and Investment in Authoritarian Regimes


Week 12: Protest in Dictatorships


Week 13: Authoritarian Regimes and Conflict


**Comparative Authoritarianism**

**PL SC 597B/ Fall 2011**

Week 14: Thanksgiving Break

Week 15: Research Week

Week 16: Presentation of 2nd Assignment

**Further Reading: Resource Wealth and Authoritarianism**


