Contact Information
Course Instructor: Melissa Rogers  
Office: McManus 228  
E-mail: Melissa.rogers@cgu.edu  
Office Hours: Thursday 2-4pm

Course Schedule
Semester: Spring 2012  
Meeting day, time: Tuesday 1-4 pm  
Course Location: McManus 35

Course Description

The large majority of comparative political research focuses on democracy. This is natural, given the inherent interest in democracy (especially related to its continuation and spread) and the relative ease of research in more open and transparent societies. However, most countries of the world throughout history have been ruled by dictatorship and the majority of people are currently living under non-democracy or electoral authoritarianism. In this course we will research and discuss many important themes related to the study of non-democratic countries. For example, can democratic and non-democratic countries be studied using the same approaches and tools? How can non-democracy be studied in the absence of the types of data used in my studies of democracy? What distinguishes democracy from non-democracy? Is non-democracy a useful category to answer many comparative research questions?

Background Preparations (Prerequisites)
PP 350, 351 and 352 are all useful but not required.

Texts and Journal References

Required:


All other readings are available on Sakai

Course Learning Outcomes:
By the end of this course, students will be able to:
1. Articulate the institutional structures of non-democratic political systems.
2. Discuss how political environments differ between democratic and non-democratic countries.
3. Analyze the relationships between politics, regime type, and economic growth.
4. Evaluate theories of the political causes and outcomes of different regime types.
5. Use the tools of social science research to evaluate the prominent literature on the comparative politics of non-democratic countries.

Course Requirements & Assignments:

Exams: both the midterm and final exams will be in the format of a Ph.D. qualifying exam. The questions will be multi-part (typically 3-5 sub-questions) and will directly address major themes in the class. All questions will ask for specific country examples. The midterm exam will be a “take home” exam that students receive on April 2nd and should be uploaded to Sakai by 4pm April 3rd. Students can use notes and readings to complete the exam. Students can bring prepared, printed notes for the final.

Course participation: Two students each week will bring in three substantive discussion questions for the week’s readings. These students will present the questions after my introduction to the class. After reading the questions, students will break up into groups of two to discuss the questions and create additional questions to discuss throughout the class period. ALL students will be expected to participate in the creation and discussion of these questions. Student participation is 20% of the course grade—do not sit quietly! Students will sign up for “Question Weeks” in the first or second week of class.

Current Events: One student each week will bring in a current event article (found on any internet news outlet) for discussion. Students should post a link to this article by midnight prior to the class session. Students will sign up for “Current Event Weeks” in the first or second week of class. Students will be expected to present the current event and offer a 5-10 minute description of how they believe the current event relates to a theory (or theories) seen in course readings.

Research Design Paper (5-10 Pages): each student will write one research design paper based on their chosen week’s readings. I will distribute a model format for this research design. The expectation will be that you develop a research question of interest based on the readings of the week. This research question does not necessarily have to be one found in the readings but should be related to the themes discussed in them. You will think about how to go about answering that question, including what kind of data, methodology, cases, etc. you would use to answer the question. You should develop hypotheses about your questions and explicate why you expect those outcomes. You should defend the importance of the question, how it fits into the literature, and why your research approach is the
best. If you are able to find some data to answer the question and perform basic summary statistics, that would be a bonus.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes. Students who are unable to attend class must seek permission for an excused absence from the course director or teaching assistant. Unapproved absences or late attendance for three or more classes may result in a lower grade or an “incomplete” for the course. If a student has to miss a class, he or she should arrange to get notes from a fellow student and is strongly encouraged to meet with the teaching assistant to obtain the missed material. Missed extra-credit quizzes and papers will not be available for re-taking.

Scientific and Professional Ethics

The work you do in this course must be your own. Feel free to build on, react to, criticize, and analyze the ideas of others but, when you do, make it known whose ideas you are working with. You must explicitly acknowledge when your work builds on someone else's ideas, including ideas of classmates, professors, and authors you read. If you ever have questions about drawing the line between others' work and your own, ask the course professor who will give you guidance. Exams must be completed independently. Any collaboration on answers to exams, unless expressly permitted, may result in an automatic failing grade and possible expulsion from the Program.

Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Grade Point</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Learning Outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>Complete mastery of course material and additional insight beyond course material</td>
<td>Insightful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>Complete mastery of course material</td>
<td>Proficient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>Gaps in mastery of the course material; not at level expected by the program</td>
<td>Developing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory</td>
<td>Ineffective</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grade Components
Participation: 20%
Midterm: 25%
Research Design: 25%
Final Exam: 30%
Expectations and Logistics
See “Course participation” in the “Course Requirements & Assignments” section. Class participation is 20% of the course grade!

Important Dates

Midterm Exam: April 3
Final Exam: May 8
Research Design: sign up sheet distributed in first two weeks of class

Week 1 (1/17): Introduction- The Study of Dictatorship

Week 2 (1/24): What democracy is and is not.


Acemoglu and Robinson. Economic Origins of Democracy and Dictatorship, Chapters 1-3

Week 3 (1/31): Types of Dictatorships
Geddes, Barbara. 2000. What do we Know about Democratization After 20 Years?” Gandhi, Chapter 1


Week 4 (2/7): One Party States


Week 5 (2/14): Military Dictatorships


Week 6 (2/21): Totalitarian and Communist States


After the Break: *Goodbye Lenin*

Week 7 (2/28): Personalist Regimes and Monarchy


Studies 42.10 (2009): 13339-1362.

Week 8 (3/6): Representation under Dictatorship


Spring Break- March 12-16

Week 9 (3/20): Accountability under Dictatorship

Magaloni, Chapter 4, 8


Week 10 (3/27): Institutions of Dictatorships
Gandhi Chapter 4


Roeder, Phillip. Red Sunset, Chapters 1-3

Week 11 (4/3): Midterm (Complete at home by the end of the class period), No class meeting

Week 12 (4/10): Economic Outcomes under Dictatorship
Gandhi, Chapter 5

Magaloni, Chapter 5


**Week 13 (4/17): Downfall of Dictatorship/Regime Stability**

Gandhi Chapter 6


**Week 14 (4/24): Transitions from Dictatorship**

Tina Rosenberg, The Haunted Land.


**After the Break: Please Vote for Me**

**Week 15 (5/1): Social Movements and Protest**


**Final Exam 5/8**