Political Science 244A/444A:
Authoritarian Politics

Lisa Blaydes*  Beatriz Magaloni†

Winter 2020

Class: 1:30-4:20 pm, Tuesday
Office Hours: Blaydes (10:00-11:00 am, Tuesday); Magaloni (12:00-1:00 pm, Friday)

Course Overview

This course offers a thematic approach to the study of authoritarian politics. We will cover the major areas of political science research on authoritarian politics and governance while simultaneously building empirical knowledge about the politics of particular authoritarian regimes. Students will be expected to produce a piece of original scholarly research related to the topic of authoritarian politics by the end of the quarter. Because this class is an advanced seminar, students will lead the discussion and also serve as discussants for the research projects of their fellow students.

Evaluation

Students will be evaluated on the following basis:

1. Class participation. Students will help lead the seminar. Students will also discuss progress on their research paper during class.

2. Research paper. The research paper should reflect original empirical analysis — either qualitative or quantitative — or theory development, or both. Student papers will be due by the end of Finals Week.

Grades will be assigned based on the following weighting scheme:

30 percent: Class participation.
70 percent: Research paper.

Students will have the option to enroll in PS 244A/444A for 3, 4 or 5 units. The evaluation scheme is common for students enrolled for different numbers of units but the length of the research paper will vary depending on the units. For students enrolled for three units, an 8-10 page paper is required; four units, 10-15 pages; five units, 15-25 pages.

*Office Phone: (650) 723-0649; blaydes@stanford.edu; Encina West, Room 408
†Office Phone: (650) 724-5949; magaloni@stanford.edu; Encina Central, Room 436
Agenda of Topics and Readings

All readings will be available on Courseworks. The agenda of topics and readings is as follows:

**Week 1: Concepts and Definitions**


**Week 2: Varieties of Autocracy**


**Week 3: Distribution, Redistribution, and Property Rights**


Week 4: Parties and Representation


Week 5: Elections and Parliaments


Week 6: Repression


**Week 7: Symbolic Politics and Public Expression**


**Week 8: Resistance**


**Week 9: How Dictatorships End?**


**Week 10: Authoritarian Politics in Democratic States**


**Note for Students with Documented Disabilities**

Students who may need an academic accommodation based on the impact of a disability must initiate the request with the Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC) located within the Office of Accessible Education (OAE). SDRC staff will evaluate the request with required documentation, recommend reasonable accommodations, and prepare an Accommodation Letter for faculty dated in the current quarter in which the request is being made. Students should contact the SDRC as soon as possible since timely notice is needed to coordinate accommodations. The OAE is located at 563 Salvatierra Walk, (650) 723-1066.