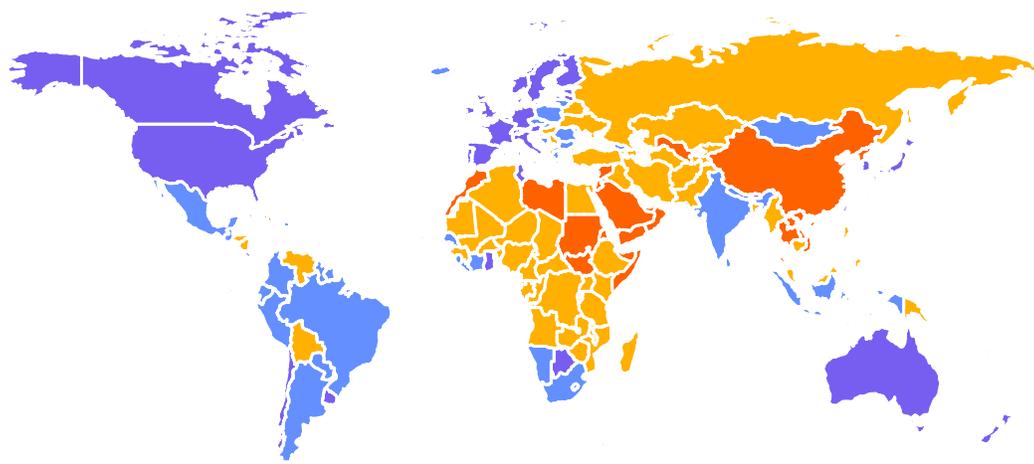


Some say we are currently living through a global wave of autocratization. The majority of countries are now governed by an authoritarian regime, and democratic freedoms are declining for one-third of the world's population. But what exactly is *authoritarianism*? How is it different from *democracy*? And what is a wave of *autocratization*? This course is designed to help you answer these sorts of questions. In particular, we will explore the causes and consequences of authoritarian regimes in the 20th and 21st centuries. We will also spend some time discussing and thinking about the most effective ways to analyze politics under authoritarianism, from in-depth case studies to cross-national trends using large statistical datasets.

Student learning outcomes:

- Define authoritarianism and distinguish between its various subtypes;
- Explain how authoritarian regimes gain power, survive, and fail;
- Describe the roles of the executive, legislature, and judiciary in authoritarian regimes;
- Understand and formulate an informed position on scholarly debates; and
- Draw descriptive inferences from real-world data.

■ Closed autocracy ■ Electoral autocracy ■ Electoral democracy ■ Liberal democracy



Regimes of the World 2019 (source: V-Dem, v10)

Assignments

All written assignments should be submitted electronically via Blackboard prior to 11:59pm on the deadline, unless otherwise noted. All written work, including take-home assignments are to be completed individually and are subject to the UA Code of Academic Conduct.

1. **Case study quizzes (30%):** We will use the *Dictator's Playbook* series from PBS to explore six case studies in autocratic leadership throughout the semester. Students are required to watch and complete a quiz on each documentary, each worth 5% of the total course grade. On documentary/quiz days, we will not have lectures.
2. **Exams (50%):** There will be two exams covering course content and readings. On exam days, we will not have lectures.
3. **Data brief (20%):** Students will prepare a short report – *no longer than 800 words* – using the online graphing tools from the Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) Project. This assignment is subject to Turnitin® review.

Assignment	Due date	Grade %
Quiz 1: Amin	04 Sep. 2020	5%
Quiz 2: Musollini	18 Sep. 2020	5%
Exam I	25 Sep. 2020	25%
Quiz 3: Kim	02 Oct. 2020	5%
Quiz 4: Hussein	09 Oct. 2020	5%
Quiz 5: Franco	30 Oct. 2020	5%
Quiz 6: Noriega	13 Nov. 2020	5%
Exam II	20 Nov. 2020	25%
Data brief	09 Dec. 2020	20%

Grading scale

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C*	C-	D+	D	D-	F
97–	93–	92–	87–	83–	80–	77–	73–	70–	67–	63–	60–	≤59%
100%	96%	90%	89%	86%	82%	79%	76%	72%	69%	66%	62%	
4.33	4.00	3.67	3.33	3.00	2.67	2.33	2.00	1.67	1.33	1.00	0.67	0.00

*Note: Majors and minors are required to maintain a minimum "C" average (2.0 GPA) in political science courses.

Required texts

- Frantz, E. (2018). *Authoritarianism: What everyone needs to know*. New York: Oxford University Press.

All other required readings will be available on Blackboard.

Other course materials

Students should have access to the internet and a computer with a microphone and web camera that can perform basic word processing and internet-based tasks, including video streaming.

Attendance

While there is no "attendance" grade for this course, your success depends on regular engagement with the lectures, discussions, and assigned readings.

Missed exams and late work

Students who cannot make a deadline should contact me immediately, preferably at least 48 hours in advance, so that we can discuss your options. Each day that an assignment is late a 5% reduction in the grade will be applied. No assignments more than 6 days late will be accepted.

Grading errors

Mistakes happen. If you think I have made an error, contact me during office hours or schedule an appointment within one week of receiving the grade. Out of respect for your right to privacy under the University's Confidentiality of Student Records policy and the Family Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, I will not discuss grades via email.

Mode of instruction

This course will meet via audio-video (AV) connection using the Zoom software at the scheduled times (MWF 10-10:50 am). Students should download Zoom from the Office of Instructional Technology:

<https://oit.ua.edu/software/zoom/>

Course website

The primary mode of communication for this course is the UA Blackboard system. Students can access this site using their myBama credentials at:

<https://ualearn.blackboard.com/>

Office hours

All office hours will take place remotely using Zoom to ensure social distancing. Students may also schedule individual meetings if the regular office hours do not work for them.

Audio-video recordings

The instructor of this course may choose to record class sessions for students enrolled in the class to refer back to, and for the use of enrolled students unable to attend class meetings. If the instructor chooses to record class sessions, students will be notified. If a student does not consent to have their profile or video image or voice recorded, it is their responsibility to keep their camera and/or microphone off and to not use a profile image.

Sharing course materials

All lectures, presentations, and class discussions are for viewing by members of this class section only and may not be posted in any public forum or shared with anyone not enrolled in this class. Any student violating these rules may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for disciplinary action.

Notification of changes

The instructor reserves the right to amend this document as the need arises. In such instances, students will receive notification in class and/or via email with reasonable time to adjust to any changes.

Covid-19 Policies

Your health, your family's health, and the health of your fellow students should always take priority. If you are dealing with illness, sick family members, travel difficulties, unreliable internet access, increased anxiety, childcare challenges, or any other issue - *please reach out*.

While I maintain the same high expectations for all students, I am happy to problem solve with you in a way that makes you feel supported as you navigate these challenging times. As soon as possible, you should notify me, your academic advisor, and if necessary, the Office of Disability Resources, so that we develop reasonable accommodations.

Social distancing requirements

All University faculty, staff, and students are expected to maintain a commitment to the health and safety of our campus community. Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, specific health and safety standards are in place to minimize exposure and community spread on campus. All students must be familiar with and abide by the requirements outlined in the UA Return Plan | UA System Comprehensive Health and Safety Plan. Students must

- (1) wear a mask or face covering at all times while participating in face-to-face class sessions; and
- (2) adhere to social distancing standards.

More information on these requirements and UA Healthcheck system and screening can be found at:

<https://healthinfo.ua.edu/returnplan/>

You are expected to visit the site and comply with all noted requirements related to in-person class attendance.

Additional resources

The College of Arts and Sciences has developed a resource guide for students during Covid-19, which can be accessed here:

<https://as.ua.edu/2020/03/30/arts-and-sciences-resources-guide-covid-19/>

Academic misconduct

Students are expected to be familiar with and adhere to the official Academic Misconduct Policy provided in the Online Catalog.

www.catalog.ua.edu/undergraduate/about/academic-regulations/student-expectations/academic-misconduct-policy/

Turnitin® policy

Students agree that their enrollment in this course allows the instructor the right to use electronic devices to help prevent plagiarism. All course materials are subject to submission to Turnitin.com for the purpose of detecting textual similarities. Assignments submitted to Turnitin.com will be included as source documents in Turnitin.com's restricted access database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism in such documents. Turnitin.com will be used as a source document to help students avoid plagiarism in written documents.

UAct: Ethical community

The University of Alabama is committed to an ethical, inclusive community defined by respect and civility. The UAct website:

<http://www.ua.edu/uact>

provides extensive information on how to report or obtain assistance with a variety of issues, including issues related to dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, sexual assault, sexual violence or other Title IX violations, illegal discrimination, harassment, child abuse or neglect, hazing, threat assessment, retaliation, and ethical violations or fraud.

Students with disabilities

If you have a documented disability (or think you may have a disability) and need reasonable accommodation(s) to participate in this class, please contact ODS and schedule an appointment with me during office hours. For more information, visit:

www.catalog.ua.edu/undergraduate/about/support-programs/disability-services/

Parents and caregivers

If you have caregiver duties (e.g. for a child, an older relative, or family member with disabilities) that limit your ability to pursue your education at UA in the same capacity as your peers, please contact me as soon as possible so that we can make reasonable accommodations.

Pregnancy accommodations

According to Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, the University of Alabama must make reasonable accommodations for students who are pregnant or who have had a false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, gone through childbirth, or are recovering from these conditions. Additional resources can be found at:

www.ua.edu/campuslife/uact/information/pregnancy

Religious observances

Under the Guidelines for Religious Holiday Observances, students should notify the instructor in writing or via email during the first two weeks of the semester of their intention to be absent from class for religious observance. The instructor will work to provide reasonable opportunity to complete academic responsibilities as long as that does not interfere with the academic integrity of the course.

www.provost.ua.edu/oa-guidelines-for-religious-holidays-observance/

Severe weather protocol

The guiding principle at The University of Alabama is to promote the personal safety of our students, faculty and staff during severe weather events. Please see the latest severe weather guidelines in the Online Catalog:

www.ready.ua.edu/severe-weather-guidelines/

General outline of topics

Part I. Defining Authoritarianism

Week 1. Course introduction

19–21 August 2020

- Syllabus
- Frantz, Introduction, 1–16

Week 2. What is authoritarianism?

24–28 August 2020

- Frantz, Understanding authoritarian politics, 21–30
- Glasius, M. (2018). What authoritarianism is... and is not: A practice perspective. *International Affairs*, 94(3), 515–533

*** Course introductions survey
due by 28 August 11:59pm**

Week 3. How do we classify authoritarian regimes?

31 August–04 September 2020

- Frantz, Authoritarian regime types, 64–82
- Schedler, A. (2006). The logic of electoral authoritarianism, in *Electoral authoritarianism: The dynamics of unfree competition*, Andreas Schedler (ed.), 2–15.
- Lührmann, A., Tannenbergh, M., & Lindberg, S. I. (2018). Regimes of the world (RoW): Opening new avenues for the comparative study of political regimes. *Politics & Governance*, 6(1), 60–77

*** Quiz, Case Study 1, Idi Amin
due by 04 September 11:59pm**

Part II. Origins of Authoritarianism

Week 4. Psychological perspectives

09–11 September 2020

- Roiser, M., & Willig, C. (2002). The strange death of the authoritarian personality: 50 years of psychological and political debate. *History of the Human Sciences*, 15(4), 71–96
- Perrin, A. J. (2005). National threat and political culture: Authoritarianism, antiauthoritarianism, and the September 11 attacks. *Political Psychology*, 26(2), 167–194

Week 5. How do authoritarian regimes gain power?

14–18 September 2020

- Frantz, How authoritarian regimes gain power, 86–102
- Moore, C. & Moghaddam, F. M. (2017). Springboard model of dictatorship in *The Sage Encyclopedia of Political Behavior*, 796–798.

*** Quiz, Case Study 2, Benito Mussolini
due by 18 September 11:59pm**

Week 6. What are waves of autocratization?

21–25 September 2020

- Frantz, The authoritarian landscape, 31–38
- Huntington, S. P. (1993). *The Third Wave: Democratization in the late Twentieth Century*. Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma, pp. 3–30
- Lührmann, A., & Lindberg, S. I. (2019). A third wave of autocratization is here: What is new about it? *Democratization*, 26(7), 1095–1113

*** Exam I
due by 25 September 11:59pm**

Part III. How Autocrats Rule

Week 7. Cult of personality

28 September–02 October 2020

- Frantz, Authoritarian leadership, 44–61
- Shirk, S. L. (2018). China in Xi's "new era": The return to personalistic rule. *Journal of Democracy*, 29 (2), 22–36
- Wallace, J. (2019). Cambodia ruler's recipe for youth appeal? An 8,900-pound rice cake. *New York Times*. <https://nyti.ms/2HsC2fZ>
- Chokshi, Niraj. (2017). Turkmenistan's leader mocked over gun-toting video. *New York Times*. <https://nyti.ms/2hspfNy>

*** Quiz, Case Study 3, Kim Il-Sung
due by 02 October 11:59pm**

Week 8. Repression

05–09 October 2020

- Frantz, Strategies for survival, 104–111
- Young, L. E. (2019). The psychology of state repression: Fear and dissent decisions in Zimbabwe. *American Political Science Review*, 113(1), 140–155
- Edel, M., & Josua, M. (2018). How authoritarian rulers seek to legitimize repression: Framing mass killings in Egypt and Uzbekistan. *Democratization*, 25(5), 882–900

*** Quiz, Case study 4, Saddam Hussein
due by 09 October 11:59pm**

Week 9. Elite capture and cooptation

12–16 October 2020

- Frantz, Strategies for survival, 111–120
- Kim, Wonik & Gandhi, J. (2010). Coopting Workers under Dictatorship. *Journal of Politics*, 72 (3), 646–658
- Donno, D., & Kreft, A.-K. (2019). Authoritarian institutions and women's rights. *Comparative Political Studies*, 52 (5), 720–753
- Gilman, L. (2001). Purchasing praise: Women, dancing, and patronage in Malawi party politics. *Africa Today*, 43–64

Week 10. Narrative and reputation

19–23 October 2020

- Carlitz, R. D., & McLellan, R. (2020). Open data from authoritarian regimes: New opportunities, new challenges. *Perspectives on Politics*, 1–11
- Edgell, A. B. (2017). Foreign aid, democracy, and gender quota laws. *Democratization*, 24 (6), 1103–1141
- Gjerløw, H., & Knutsen, C. H. (2019). Why Saudi Arabia is building the tallest building in the world. The Monkey Cage, *Washington Post*. www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2019/05/16/dictators-build-more-skyscrapers-heres-why/
- Kao, J., & Li, M. S. (2020). How China built a Twitter propaganda machine then let it loose on coronavirus. *ProPublica*. www.propublica.org/article/how-china-built-a-twitter-propaganda-machine-then-let-it-loose-on-coronavirus

Part IV. How Autocracies Die

Week 11. Death of the dictator

26–30 October 2020

- Frantz, How authoritarian regimes fall, 122–132
- Kendall-Taylor, A., & Frantz, E. (2016). When dictators die. *Journal of Democracy*, 27(4), 159–171

*** Quiz, Case Study 5, Francisco Franco
due by 30 October 11:59pm**

Week 12. Coups and revolution

02–06 November 2020

- Howard, P. N., & Hussain, M. M. (2011). The upheavals in Egypt and Tunisia: The role of digital media. *Journal of Democracy*, 22 (3), 35–48
- Hassan, M., & Kodouda, A. (2019). Sudan’s uprising: The fall of a dictator. *Journal of Democracy*, 30(4), 89–103
- Friedman, V. (2019). It’s going to be the image of the revolution. *New York Times*. www.nytimes.com/2019/04/10/fashion/demonstration-clothing-women-sudan.html
- Lachapelle, J. (2020). No easy way out: The effect of military coups on state repression. *Journal of Politics*, online first

Week 13. Foreign interventions

09–13 November

- Escribá-Folch, A., & Wright, J. (2015). *Foreign pressure and the politics of autocratic survival*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 49–83

*** Quiz, Case Study 6, Manuel Noriega
due by 13 November 11:59pm**

Week 14. By design or by mistake?

16–20 November 2020

- Riedl, R. B., Slater, D., Wong, J., & Ziblatt, D. (2020). Authoritarian-led democratization. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 23, 315–332
- Treisman, D. (2020). Democracy by mistake: How the errors of autocrats trigger transitions to freer government. *American Political Science Review*, 1–19

*** Exam II
due by 20 November 11:59pm**

Week 15. Conclusion

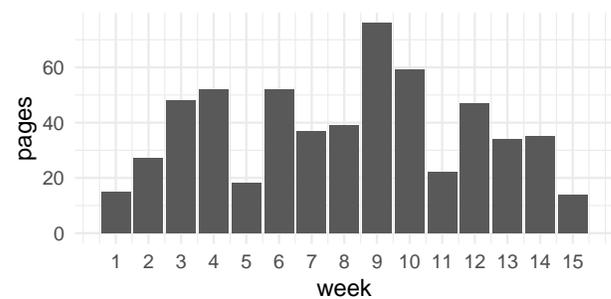
30 November–04 December 2020

- Frantz, How authoritarian regimes fail, 133–147
- *Individual meetings about data briefs*

*** Data brief
due by 09 December 11:59pm**

Reading Statistics

a. Pages per week



b. Pronouns of authors

