Authoritarianism and Democracy

Government 6483     Fall 2016

What do they know of England who only England know?  – Rudyard Kipling

Instructor: Jeremy Wallace            Email: wallace@cornell.edu
Time: W 2:30-4:25                     Place: Uris Hall 394
Office Hours: W 9:30-11:15, or by appt Place: White Hall 211

Officials come to their positions of power in ways that vary over time and space. Comparativists have, historically, focused their attentions on democracies and on transitions from authoritarian regimes to democratic ones. This seminar will consider definitions of these regime types but aims to have a different, broader focus: the politics of authoritarian regimes and regime transitions of all kinds.

Course Requirements and Grading:

Participation & Attendance - 25%       Responses (4) - 25%       Research Paper - 50%

Participation & Attendance – The course is a seminar and so your attendance and active participation in the discussion is required.

Responses – Each student will write 4 responses (~500 words per response) during the semester. Responses synthesize the readings of the week and should end with discussion questions. Response writers will help lead and guide the seminar for that week’s session.

Research Paper – By the date of the final session, students are expected to turn in a research paper (8000-10,000 words). First, two “pitches” – 1 page paper ideas that make the case for a particular piece of research – will be presented in Week 6. Two weeks later, a single draft outline is due by the end of Week 8, and a 4000+ word draft shared with other students and the instructor is due at the end of Week 11 and discussed in Week 12.

Integrity and Accommodation:

Each student in this course is expected to abide by the University’s Code of Academic Integrity. In compliance with university policy and equal access laws, I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that may be required for student with disabilities.
Schedule of Readings

Almost all of the readings are linked or on Blackboard, with the exception of *The Net Delusion* (Morozov), which is available at our library and for purchase online.

Introductions, and How to Write Them [2016.08.24]


❖ Sheila Fitzpatrick. *Everyday Stalinism*.

Measurement of Democracy [2016.08.31]


Authoritarian Regime Types [2016.09.07]


Development and Democracy [2016.09.14]


Transitions [2016.09.21]


**Authoritarian Institutions [2016.09.28]**


**Regime Survival: Control and Violence [2016.10.05]**


- Pablo Policzer. 2009. The Rise and Fall of Repression in Chile.

Coups and Military Rule [2016.10.12]


Regimes and Redistribution [2016.10.19]


**Elections in Nondemocracies [2016.10.26]**


**The Internet and Nondemocratic Politics [2016.11.02]**


**Information, Ideology, and Power [2016.11.09]**


Andrew Mertha. 2009. “*Fragmented Authoritarianism 2.0.*” *China Quarterly* 200: 995-1012.

**Authoritarianism Today [2016.11.16]**


**Thanksgiving Break, No Class [2016.11.23]**

**Student Presentations [2016.11.30]**