This course explores the sources of democracy, authoritarianism and the durability of authoritarian regimes. First, where does democracy come from? Why does democracy emerge and survive in some countries but not others? Next, what explains the durability of authoritarian regimes? Why do some dictatorships persist while others do not? Why are some autocrats more or less durable in the face of challenges to their rule?

We will explore theories rooted in leadership, economic development, natural resources, polarization, regime type, and civil military relations. The first part of the course will provide overviews of these literatures. The second part of the course will then explore the utility of competing approaches by exploring cases failed democracy in Weimar Germany and Chile in 1973; as well as authoritarian durability (China during the Tiananmen square protests in 1989) and instability (Iran in 1979). What theories best explain these different outcomes?

Course requirements:

The course grade will be based on the following:

Weekly response papers: (25%) The response papers -- ½ to 1 page in length – should summarize each of the readings for all weeks and provide one question about any or more than one of the readings. The papers should explicitly discuss each of the week’s readings and be submitted on blackboard to me by noon the day of class. Note that graduate students are required to summarize one of the suggested readings in addition to the required reading. In general, I recommend that students make explicit reference to the author(s) of the works in question. Note that for the books, you should summarize separately each of the required chapters. The papers will not be graded. Instead, an A (85%) will be given as long as the paper is handed in on time and there is evidence that the reading has been done. No credit will be given for late papers. Note, that you will not be expected to write a response paper for the weeks in which you choose to do a lit review and a short paper (see below).

Literature review: (25%) You should write a 3-4 page literature review (12 point, double spaced) for one of the theory weeks (weeks 2 through 7). This exercise is NOT primarily a summary of the arguments – but a critique of the readings that highlights the differences and similarities between the arguments of the different readings (how are the approaches
similar and different?). This review is due on the day of that week’s discussion. Late papers will not be accepted.

**SHORT PAPER:** (35%) You will be asked to write a 7-8 page paper (12 point double spaced) assessing the importance of voluntarist AND structural variables in explaining the regime outcomes in one of the weeks 9-12. The paper should draw on both the required reading as well as 3 other sources focusing on the particular crisis that are not in the syllabus. This paper is due on the last day of class. You will be deducted 5% for each day your paper is late.

**Note:** Those enrolled in Masters or PhD may replace this with a research paper (20 pages) on a topic of their choosing related to regimes and regime outcomes. Students who choose to do this should inform me and send me a topic by Feb 5. This paper is due on the last day of class.

**DEBATE:** (7.5%) In each of the four final weeks, there will be a debate on the voluntarist or structural roots of regime outcomes in weeks 9-12. You will need to volunteer for one of these teams (I strongly encourage you to volunteer for the same topic on which you decide you write your paper – but this may not always be possible)

**GENERAL CLASS PARTICIPATION:** (7.5%) All students will be expected to participate actively in each class. Attendance will be taken and will count towards your participation grade. During the debates (weeks 9-12) in which you are not on one of the teams, you are expected to ask questions based on the reading.

**Grade breakdown:**
- Weekly responses: 25%
- Literature critique (4 pages) due day of class: 25%
- Short paper (7 pages): 35%
- Debate: 7.5%
- Class participation: 7.5%

**Use of Turnitin for papers**
Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

**Laptop/Tablet Policy**
This seminar will be a laptop and tablet free zone. There is now significant research available showing that laptop/tablet use in class disturbs those around the laptop/tablet user and has negative effects on the laptop/tablet user’s performance on tests *even when the laptop is used appropriately for note-taking*. This is in addition to the copious evidence that the kind of multitasking that usually accompanies laptop/tablet use in the classroom hurts academic
performance. I have therefore decided that laptops/tablets cannot be used in my seminar. Please do not bring them to lecture or leave them in your bag.

Required readings:
Readings marked with an # can be found on the U of T library website. Readings marked with an * can be found on blackboard. All other readings are from books available for purchase. The following required readings are available for purchase at the UT bookstore.

- Arturo Valenzuela *The Breakdown of Democratic Regimes: Chile*

(available online: http://quod.lib.umich.edu.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=acls;idno=heb02805)


Week 1 January 7: Introduction
Overview of course. What is democracy? What is authoritarianism?

Week 2: January 14: Structuralism versus voluntarism
# Mahoney and Snyder, "Rethinking Agency and Structure in the Study of Regime Change", *Studies in Comparative International Development* 34:2 (Summer 1999): 3-32.

Week 3: January 21: Oil and Democracy


* David Waldner and Ben Smith, “Rentier States and State Transformations” ms

Suggested reading:


**Week 4: January 28: Economic development**


# Boix, Carles and Susan Stokes "Endogenous Democratization" *World Politics* - Volume 55, Number 4, July 2003, pp. 517-549

# Christian Houle, "Inequality and Democracy: Why Inequality Harms Consolidation but Does Not Affect Democratization," *World Politics*, 61

# Ben Ansell and David Samuels, “Inequality and Democratization: A Contractarian Approach,” *Comparative Political Studies* 2010


*Suggested:*


Freeman and Quinn, “The Economic Origins of Democracy Reconsidered,” forthcoming APSR. – (ask me if you want to read this and I will provide it for you)

**Week 5: February 4: Polarization**

TBD

**Graduate students:** If you decide to write a research paper, you should submit to me a topic by email by this date and set up a time to discuss the topic with me.

**Week 6: February 11: Regime type as a source of regime stability/instability**

* Milan Svolik. 2012. Chapter 6


Suggested
Barbara Geddes, Joseph Wright, and Erica Frantz *How Dictatorships Work* chapter: “Political Institutions As Responses to the Ordinary Dilemmas of Dictatorship” (ms – ask me if you want to read this and I will provide it for you)


READING WEEK

**Week 7: February 25: Military coups**

* Samuel Huntington *Political Order in Changing Societies* (1968), pp. 192-198, 229-231
* Eric Nordlinger *Soldiers in Politics: Military Coups and Governments* (1977) chapter 3


# Deniz Aksoy, David B. Carter and Joseph Wright “Terrorism and the Fate of Dictators” *World Politics* 67 No. 3 (2015): 423-468

*Suggested:*

* Lucan Way “The Revolutionary Origins of Chinese Communist Durability” ms (focus on sections related to the Chinese military)


**Week 8 March 4: International Influences and Regime Outcomes**


Week 9: March 11: Authoritarianism in Chile
Which approach (structuralist or voluntarist) best explains the Chilean military coup of September 11, 1973?
Valenzuela, read whole book

Note: you must summarize each chapter individually

Week 10 March 18: Rise of Nazis
Debate question:
Which approach (structuralist or voluntarist) provides a better explanation for the failure of Weimar democracy and the rise of the Nazis?

Note: you must summarize each chapter individually

Week 11: March 25: China
Debate question:
Which approach (structuralist or voluntarist) provides a better explanation for why the Chinese Communist Regime survived Tiananmen?
Zhao: Introduction, chapters 6 and 7.
Note: you must summarize each chapter individually

Week 12 April 1: Iran
Debate question:
Which approach (structuralist or voluntarist) provides a better explanation for the fall of the Shah in 1979?
Note: you must summarize each chapter individually

Papers due