POLS 672: AUTHORITARIANISM AND DEMOCRACY
Northern Illinois University
Department of Political Science
Fall, Du Sable 464
Tuesday 6:30-9:10 pm

**Instructor:** Professor Kheang Un, Ph.D.
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**Course Description:** Since the early 1970s, there have been successive “waves” of regime change from authoritarian/communist to democratic regimes. Much literature focuses on transitions from authoritarian rule to consolidation of democratic states. In recent years, however, there is renewed interest in authoritarianism following developments wherein the course of the “Third Wave” of democratization led to the persistence of hybrid regimes that combined democratic and authoritarian features. This course addresses various theoretical explanations and case study examinations for democratic change and authoritarian resilience including economic, socio-political, cultural, historical and international factors. It also explores theoretical discussions on factors that hinder and promote democratic consolidation.

**Course Format:** This is a seminar with an objective to integrate and critique the assigned readings and to identify areas for further research. So each week, there will be two presenters who will lead class discussion. The two presenters will submit a short critical analysis of the assigned readings (three to four pages, double-spaced). This critical analysis highlights key methodological and substantive issues posed by the readings and includes discussion questions. This critical reading needs to be posted no later than 6 pm on Monday prior to the Tuesday seminar. The assumption is that the two person team will collaborate on producing the documents and questions that will serve as the foundation for our class discussion. Professor Un will open the class with some comments and then turn to the two discussants for the week to lead the class in addressing the issues posed by the week’s readings.

**Requirements:** In addition to leading class discussion, the course has two additional requirements: one research paper and one final exam. The length of research paper will be between 6,000 and 8,000 words including a 150 word abstract and a bibliography. The take home final will contain a list of questions (given in advance) from which 1
questions will be answered. The answer should be between 3,000-3,500 words in length.\(^1\) Class attendance and participation are mandatory.

**Grade Distribution:**
Leading class discussion: 15 percent \(\times 2 = 30\) percent  
Class participation: 20 percent  
Term paper: 30 percent  
Final Exam: 20 percent  

**Required Textbooks**

***The instructor reserves the right to make modifications to this syllabus when necessary***

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**August 28: Introduction to the Course**

No reading

**September 04: Authoritarianism**

**Required Readings**

\(^1\) Please consult the Comprehensive Exam Guideline for guidelines. The instructor does not expect that students (particularly Masters students) to deliver the quality required by the Guideline. However, it is imperative particularly for Ph.D. students to familiarize themselves with the expectations.


**Suggested Readings**


**September 11: What is democracy?**

**Required Readings**


**Suggested Readings**


### September 18: Endogenous Factors to Democratization

**Required Readings**

**Suggested Readings:**

### September 25: Political Culture

**Required Readings**

**Suggested Readings:**


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**October 02: Democratic Consolidation**

**Required Readings**


**Suggested Readings:**

**October 09: Civil Society, Social Movements and Democratization**

**Required Readings**

**Suggested Readings**

**October 16: Patrimonialism and Neopatrimonialism**

**Required Readings**

**Suggested Readings**


**October 23: Enduring One Party State I**

**Required Readings**


**Suggested Readings**


October 30: Enduring One Party State II: Indonesia and Malaysia

Required Reading

Suggested Readings:

November 06: Enduring One Party State III

Required Readings:

Suggested Readings:

November 13: Hybrid Regime

Required Readings
1. Steven Levitsky and Lucan Way, Competitive Authoritarianism: Hybrid Regimes after the Cold War (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010). Stephen Knack,

**Suggested Readings**


**November 20: Authoritarian Persistence**


**November 27: Regime Types and Economic Development**

**Required Readings**


*TERM PAPER DUE*
Suggested Readings:

**December 4: FINAL EXAM**