Course Description:
This course grapples with a series of issues that are central to comparative politics and current political issues. What is democracy and authoritarianism? Does democracy mean different things in different geographical and historical contexts? Why are some countries democratic while others are authoritarian? Why and how do some authoritarian countries initiate transitions to democracy while others seem remarkably resilient to political change? Why do some efforts to democratize succeed while others fail? Why and how do some democracies backslide into authoritarianism? How are flawed and shallow democracies made deeper and more robust? And what is the relationship between economic development and regime type? Does it tend to produce democracies or authoritarian regimes?

The course is guided by two goals. The first is to introduce you to the major issues, theories, concepts, and arguments in the literature on democratization and authoritarianism. The second is to give you a comparative perspective on some of the major cases of transitions from dictatorship to democracy and vice versa, with the intention of balancing theory with empirics. Consequently, we will study case studies from around the world, including both historical accounts and current events.

Learning Outcomes:
In this class, you will learn to:
- To identify and evaluate competing definitions of democracy and authoritarianism;
- To identify, explain, and critique competing arguments for how regimes are created and why they transition from one form to another;
- To identify, describe, and define basic factual information and analytical concepts concerning political systems and institutions;
- To describe and evaluate arguments regarding the benefits and costs of different regimes;
- To gain a deeper understanding of the workings of political regimes in states around the world;
- Apply these concepts in a wide array of countries;
- Demonstrate your knowledge through a variety of quizzes, video exercises, and writing assignments.

Required Readings and Software:
All required readings are on the course Canvas website. Please contact Prof. Kauffman immediately if you have any trouble downloading them. We will be using an online platform called PackBack to organize class participation and discussion (see instructions below). You will need to subscribe to the course PackBack site, which will cost $18 for the term. Instructions for how to register will be provided on the course Canvas Site.
Course Requirements and Grading:

Over 4 weeks, you must complete 8 modules, each of which includes a combination of readings, video lectures, online discussion, quizzes, and reflection papers. Each week you must complete two modules (see Course Schedule below). Late assignments will NOT be accepted.

40% READING QUIZZES – You will take one reading quiz for each module (there are 8 modules in total). These quizzes will be taken on-line via CANVAS and can be accessed through the “Modules” page (also the home page). Forty percent of your grade for the class will be based on these reading quizzes. Each reading quiz contains a series of multiple-choice questions. You will have 45 minutes to take each reading quiz. After completing the quiz, please make sure you press the submit button about 30 seconds before the 45 minute time limit because it takes the system about that long to process your quiz.

10% VIDEO EXERCISES – You will also complete a series of short video exercises. These involve watching short videos online (typically 5-10 minutes each) and answering several multiple choice and/or short answer questions relating to each video segment. The purpose of these is for you to think about how the issues discussed in the text relate to real-world cases. There is no time limit for completing the video exercises, which will be completed via CANVAS (see the Modules page). They are worth 10% of your final grade.

10% DISCUSSION/PARTICIPATION -- Participation is a requirement for this course, and the Packback Questions platform will be used for online discussion about class topics. Packback Questions is an online platform where you are encouraged to be fearlessly curious and ask BIG questions about how what we’re studying relates to life in the real world. In order to receive your points per week, you must post 1 question and respond to 2 of your classmates’ questions relevant to our class subject matter per week. You will be graded on the quality of your submissions, not just the quantity. There will be a Sunday 11:59 PM deadline for submissions in your community each week. Further instructions will be provided on Canvas.

40% REFLECTION PAPERS – Each week you will write a 4 to 5-page (double-spaced) “reflection paper” responding to questions I post on CANVAS. The questions require you to reflect on and analyze information provided in the readings assigned for that week. A reflection paper is not a summary of the course readings or a stream of conscious mind dump on paper. Rather, it is a means for you to analyze and respond in a substantive way to the content, issues and controversies raised in the assigned readings. While you are free to do any outside research you want, it is not necessary. Your writing assignments will be securely uploaded to Canvas and automatically checked for plagiarism. Together, these reflection papers constitute 40% of your grade for the class (10% each).

Grading Scale:

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No Make-up Assignments or Incompletes:

Out of fairness to the other students, there will be no opportunities to re-take missed assignments. **No incompletes** can be given for this course due to its web-based nature. If you do not complete a quiz, video exercise or paper for any reason, you will receive a “0.” If you have trouble accessing any quiz, please contact me immediately.

**Academic Honesty:**

Don’t cheat. Don’t waste my time and yours. Today’s software makes it very easy to catch cheaters. Everything in your assignments must be your own work. Neither ignorance of these policies nor the lack of an intention to cheat or plagiarize will be considered a legitimate defense. Raise questions you have with me before problems arise. If you are caught cheating or plagiarizing, you will receive a zero on your assignment, you will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct, and you may fail the class. For more information on the Student Conduct Code and on plagiarism, see these websites:

http://uodos.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards/StudentConductCode/tabid/69/Default.aspx
http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/
http://tep.uoregon.edu/workshops/teachertraining/learnercentered/syllabus/academicdishonesty.html

PLEASE NOTE: It is a violation of the UO Student Conduct Code to open the required textbook or other materials during a quiz, collaborate or consult with another person during a quiz, share questions or answers with others, print out the quiz, or use a quiz or quiz answers provided by another person, or to pay another person or organization to assist you in taking these quizzes. If you engage in any of these activities even once, your grade for all the quizzes will be a zero, which will make it essentially impossible to pass the class.

**Faculty Reporting Requirements:**

All faculty and staff share in the responsibility to create a safe learning environment for all students and for the campus as a whole. As members of the campus community, all faculty and staff (other than those designated as confidential reporters) are designated as **responsible employees** and therefore have the duty to report any instances of sexual harassment, sexual violence and/or other forms of prohibited discrimination. If a student would prefer to share information about sexual harassment, sexual violence or discrimination to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, a list of those individuals can be found at https://safe.uoregon.edu/services. Each resource is clearly labeled as either “required reporter,” “confidential UO employee,” or “off-campus,” to allow you to select your desired level of confidentiality.

**Title IX Rights:**

As an instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment for my students and for the campus as a whole. As a member of the university community, I have the responsibility to report any instances of sexual harassment, sexual violence and/or other forms of prohibited discrimination. If you would rather share information about sexual harassment, sexual violence or discrimination to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can find a list of those individuals at http://safe.uoregon.edu/services Each resource is clearly labeled as either “required reporter,” “confidential UO employee,” or “off-campus,” to allow you to select your desired level of confidentiality.
COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1: June 25 to July 1 - Complete Modules 1 & 2 (all assignments due by 11:59pm July 1)

Module 1: Introduction to States and Regimes
- Complete Module 1 Reading Quiz
- Complete Module 1 Video Exercise

Module 2: What is Democracy and How Do We Measure It?
- Joseph Shumpeter, Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy, 1976 (excerpt), pp. 5-11.
- Complete Module 2 Reading Quiz

Participation Assignment for Week 1 due by 11:59pm, July 1, 2018

Reflection Paper 1 due by 11:59pm, July 1, 2018

Week 2: July 2 to July 8 - Complete Modules 3 & 4 (all assignments due by 11:59pm July 8)

Module 3: Types of Democratic Institutions and How they Shape Politics
- Orvis & Drogus, Case Studies: “Japan: from Dominant Party to Two-Party System?” (pp. 332-338); “India: From Dominant-Party to Multiparty Democracy” (pp. 339-343); “Brazil: Parties and Civil Society in a Young Democracy” (pp. 344-348).
- Complete Module 3 Reading Quiz
- Complete Module 3 Video Exercise

Module 4: What’s the Best Form of Government for Deeply Divided Societies?
- Nussaibah Younis, “Set up to Fail: Consociational political structures in post-war Iraq,
• Complete Module 4 Reading Quiz

Participation Assignment for Week 2 due by 11:59pm, July 8, 2018

Reflection Paper 2 due by 11:59pm, July 8, 2018

**Week 3: July 9 to July 15 - Complete Modules 5 & 6 (all assignments due by 11:59pm July 15)**

**Module 5: Types of Authoritarian Governments and How They Work**
• “Putin's Victory Is Assured In Russia's Election,” NPR, March 16, 2018.
• Complete Module 5 Reading Quiz
• Complete Module 5 Video Exercise

**Module 6: Does Economic Development Promote Democracy or Authoritarianism?**
• Complete Module 6 Reading Quiz
• Complete Module 6 Video Exercise

Participation Assignment for Week 3 due by 11:59pm, July 15, 2018

Reflection Paper 3 due by 11:59pm, July 15, 2018

**Week 4: July 16 to July 22 - Complete Modules 7 & 8 (all assignments due 11:59pm July 22)**

**Module 7: How do Authoritarian Countries Become Democratic?**
Module 8: How Do Democracies Backslide Into Authoritarianism?


Participation Assignment for Week 4 due by 11:59pm, July 22, 2018

Reflection Paper 3 due by 11:59pm, July 22, 2018