

CPO 3990 Dictatorships, Fall 2011

M&W, 2:30-3:45 p.m., 74/109

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Office Hours: M&W, 1:00-2:30, 4:00-5:00 p.m. and most Fridays, 2:30-5:00 p.m.

(It is best if you make an appointment ahead of time by calling 474-2337.)

This course will carry out a comparative analysis of dictatorships across time and space, with special attention paid to two 20<sup>th</sup> century totalitarian regimes, those of Hitler and Stalin. The analysis will focus primarily on some of the causes for the rise and fall of these dictatorships, the methods for making themselves obeyed, the costs imposed on their subject populations, and their long-term effects on their respective countries.

Drawing from texts, a film, and your own research, we will examine the nature of dictatorship. Our aim in this course is to learn as much as we can about dictators and the regimes they build: their origins and motivations, their personalities, the circumstances under which they come to exercise despotic power, the instruments of propaganda and repression, the ways in which they attract loyalists and deal with opponents and dissidents, and finally how they end, either physically, as with the death of the dictator, or politically (as in war or revolution). We will look for patterns, seeking to identify commonalities in the exercise of dictatorial powers and the ways segments of the population accept, collaborate, support, adapt, suffer, resist and fare under them.

To achieve our goal we will jointly read classic writings on dictatorships—excerpts from Aristotle's *Politics*, and Machiavelli's *Prince*, both available free on line—a comparative study of National Socialism and Communism, *The Dictators. Hitler's Germany and Stalin's Russia*, by Richard Overy (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2004), and a tongue-in-cheek manual on *How to Rule the World*, by Andre de Gillaume. Along with these readings, we will watch a film, "Stalin," starring Robert Duvall. You are to watch this movie carefully, taking notes as you do so, for you will need to incorporate specific references to it on the essays.

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

1. Identify the principal features of dictatorship, including resources and methods.
2. Recognize some of the political, economic, and social conditions facilitating the rise and fall of dictatorships.
3. Assess the human and political costs of dictatorships.
4. Recognize some of the early symptoms of a dictatorship in the making.

**Requirements.** You are required to attend class faithfully and, having read the assigned reading beforehand, to contribute to the class either in person or on the discussion forum. Based on your contributions in both arenas, you will receive a weekly "preparation and contribution" (P&C for short) grade on a scale of 0 to 100. This will be

computed as follows: For every day you are in class from start to finish, you will earn 40 points, unless in response to my questions it is evident that you did not read the assignment, in which case you will earn only 30 points. You can earn an additional 20 points during the week depending on the *quality* of your contributions, either in class or in the e-learning forum, which of course have to be rooted in the readings, the film, your own research (see below) or, in the case of those who have first- or second-hand experience of dictatorship (e.g., having learned it from parents or other relatives), anecdotes. Talking off the top of your head, or talking a lot without saying anything meaningful, won't earn you any points. (In fact, in such cases I would have to admonish you to restrain yourself.) By *quality* I mean thoughtful questions or comments that go to the heart of the matter at hand, particularly those that give insight into one or another dictatorship or, even better, that identify parallels or contrasts among two or more readings.

As well as P&C, you will write two essays. One, the "Review of Reviews" essay, will summarize, compare, and evaluate several reviews of one of the required texts in the course. The second essay, the "Synthetic Essay," will incorporate all the material covered in the course, plus some research of your own. (Formats for both essays will be posted in due course.) Finally, there will be occasional quizzes on the readings and you will make a brief presentation on the "Synthetic Essay" on December 5<sup>th</sup>, starting at 2:30 p.m. This is the day the university has set aside for our final exam.

**Grading.** The course grade will be computed as follows:

P&C-----	25%
Review Essay-----	25
Synthetic Essay---	30
Quizzes-----	10
Presentation-----	10
Total-----	100%

### **Integrity**

It goes without saying, but it bears repeating anyway, that anyone enrolled in this course makes a commitment to act with integrity. As the home page of the Department of Government puts it, this means "conducting ourselves honorably, conspicuously refraining from lying or cheating about our work. There can be no phony excuses for failing to complete an assignment, no turning in another's work as one's own, no plagiarism." Anyone found to have plagiarized is subject to being assessed a penalty up to and including being assigned an F in the course and reported to university authorities for additional measures.

Regarding the last-named offense, here is UWF's plagiarism policy: "The UWF Student Handbook, Code of Student Conduct, Academic Misconduct, states: 'Plagiarism. The act of representing the ideas, words, creations or work of another as one's own.' Plagiarism combines theft with fraud, and the penalty is correspondingly severe: failure for the assignment and, in some cases, for the entire course. At the instructor's discretion, she/he may recommend that the student be suspended from the university.

Ignorance of the rules about plagiarism is no excuse for it, and carelessness is just as bad as purposeful violation. Students who have plagiarized have cheated themselves out of the experience of being responsible members of the academic community and have cheated their classmates by pretending to contribute original ideas.” (For additional information on plagiarism, go the UWF’s home page, click on keyword search, and enter “plagiarism policy” (in quotation marks), which allows you to download a word document several pages long.)

Just to be sure there remains no doubt in anyone’s mind what plagiarism is, I require *everyone* to take the [Library’s Tutorial on Plagiarism](#), *and* to pass the test found therein, missing no more than 1 question. If you miss more than one, you need to retake the test as many times as needed until you miss no more than one question. You will need to e-mail me the results no later than Monday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, at 2:20 p.m. *I will not grade any essay from anyone who has not completed this module.*

### **Student Conduct**

It is the students’ responsibility to read the Student Code of Conduct, available at <http://www.uwf.edu/judicialaffairs>. Please know that anyone violating its provisions may be penalized by expulsion from a course or the university.

### **Disability Services**

Students with special needs who require specific examination-related or other course-related accommodations should contact Barbara Fitzpatrick, Director of Disabled Student Services (DSS), [dss@uwf.edu](mailto:dss@uwf.edu), (850) 474-2387. DSS will provide the student with a letter for the instructor that will specify any recommended accommodations.

## Schedule of Readings

(The schedule is subject to revision at instructor's discretion, due notice given.)

Day	Assignment
Monday, 8/22	Introduction to the course.
Wednesday, 8/24	Overy, <i>The Dictators</i> , "Introduction: Comparing Dictatorships" Aristotle, <i>The Politics</i> , Book V, Chapter 11. Available on the e-learning site for this course under "required readings."
Monday, 8/29	Xenophon, "Hiero. Or The Tyrant. A Discourse on Despotic Rule." Both available on the e-learning site for this course under "required readings."
Wednesday, 8/31	Overy, <i>The Dictators</i> , Ch. 1
Wednesday, 9/7	Overy, <i>The Dictators</i> , Ch. 2
Monday, 9/12	Overy, <i>The Dictators</i> , Ch. 3
Wednesday, 9/14	Overy, <i>The Dictators</i> , Ch. 4
Monday, 9/19	Overy, <i>The Dictators</i> , Ch. 5
Wednesday, 9/21	Overy, <i>The Dictators</i> , Ch. 6
Monday, 9/26	Overy, <i>The Dictators</i> , Ch. 7
Wednesday, 9/28	Overy, <i>The Dictators</i> , Ch. 8
Monday, 10/3	Overy, <i>The Dictators</i> , Ch. 9
Wednesday, 10/5	Overy, <i>The Dictators</i> , Ch. 10
Monday, 10/10	Overy, <i>The Dictators</i> , Ch. 11
Wednesday, 10/12	Overy, <i>The Dictators</i> , Ch. 12
Monday, 10/17	Overy, <i>The Dictators</i> , Ch. 13
Wednesday, 10/19	Overy, <i>The Dictators</i> , Ch. 14
Monday, 10/24	No assigned reading. In class: watch "Stalin," starring Robert Duvall. Take notes on the movie to incorporate into the "Review of Reviews Essay."

- Wednesday, 10/26 No assigned reading. Watch “Stalin,” starring Robert Duvall. Take notes on the movie to incorporate into the “Review of Reviews Essay.”
- Monday, 10/31 No assigned reading. Conclude watching “Stalin,” starring Robert Duvall. Take notes on the movie to incorporate into the “Review of Reviews Essay.” “Review of Reviews” Essay due in dropbox no later than tomorrow, Tuesday, at 8:00 a.m. No late papers accepted, no excuses allowed.
- Wednesday, 11/2 Machiavelli, *The Prince*, Chs. VI, VII, VIII, XII, and XIII
- Monday, 11/7 Machiavelli, *The Prince*, Chs. XIX, XX, XXI, XXII and XXIII
- Wednesday, 11/9 Machiavelli, *The Prince*, Chs. XIV, XV, XVI, XVII, and XVIII
- Monday, 11/14 Cuzán, “[Fidel Castro: A Machiavellian Prince?](#),” *Cuba in Transition*, Volume 9, 1999, pp. 178-191.
- Wednesday, 11/16 de Guillaume, *How to Rule the World*, Introduction and Chs. 1-7.
- Monday, 11/21 de Guillaume, *How to Rule the World*, Chs. 8-end.
- Wednesday, 11/23 NO CLASS. Work on researching and writing the Synthetic Essay. Happy Thanksgiving.
- Monday, 11/28 NO CLASS. Work on researching and writing the Synthetic Essay.
- Wednesday, 11/30 NO CLASS. Work on researching and writing the Synthetic Essay.
- Monday, 12/5 Class starts at 2:30 p.m. You will each make a brief presentation on your Synthetic Essay. The essay itself is due in dropbox no later than 8:00 a.m. the next day, Tuesday, 12/6. No late papers accepted, no excuses allowed.

Wednesday, 11/2

- January 11<sup>th</sup> Overy, *The Dictators*, Chs. 1  
 Movie:  
 Movie: “Triumph of the Will” (120 minutes)  
 “Triumph of the Will” (continued)
- January 13<sup>th</sup> Overy, *The Dictators*, Ch. 2  
 Movie: “Triumph of the Will” (concluded)
- January 18<sup>th</sup> MLK Day: NO CLASS
- January 20<sup>th</sup> Overy, *The Dictators*, Ch. 3 and 4  
 Movie: “Downfall” (155 minutes)
- January 25<sup>th</sup> Overy, *The Dictators*, Chs. 5 and 6  
 Movie: “Downfall” (continued)
- January 27<sup>th</sup> Overy, *The Dictators*, Ch. 7  
 Movie: “Downfall” (concluded)
- February 1<sup>st</sup> Overy, *The Dictators*, Chs. 8 and 9  
 Movie: “Stalin” (173 minutes).
- February 3<sup>rd</sup> Overy, *The Dictators*, Ch. 10  
 Movie: “Stalin” (continued)
- February 8<sup>th</sup> Overy, *The Dictators*, Chs. 11 and 12  
 Movie: “Stalin” (continued)
- February 10<sup>th</sup> Overy, *The Dictators*, Ch. 13  
 Movie: “Stalin” (continued)
- February 15<sup>th</sup> Overy, *The Dictators*, Chs. 14 and Conclusion  
 Movie: “Stalin” (concluded)
- February 17<sup>th</sup> Koestler *Darkness at Noon* (entire)  
 Movie: “Lives of Others” (138 minutes)  
 Ranking of dictatorships due in class (and the dropbox).
- February 22<sup>nd</sup> Mario Vargas Llosa, *Feast of the Goat*  
 Movie: “Lives of Others” (138 minutes)
- February 24<sup>th</sup> Mario Vargas Llosa, *Feast of the Goat* (concluded)  
 Dictators and groups assigned. A provisional coordinator for the group will be assigned, as well.

Movie: "Lives of Others" (concluded)

- March 1<sup>st</sup> NO CLASS. Part 1 of MIDTERM EXAM, "Review of Reviews," due in drop box no later than 7:45 a.m. the next day, Tuesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. No late submissions accepted, no excuses allowed.
- March 3<sup>rd</sup> NO CLASS. Part 2 of MIDTERM EXAM, "Comparing Dictatorships," due in drop box no later than 7:45 a.m. the next day, Thursday, March 4<sup>th</sup>. No late submissions accepted, no excuses allowed.
- March 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> SPRING BREAK
- March 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> **Individual** consultations with instructor during class or during office hours. I will meet separately with each of you for about 10-12 minutes. It is your responsibility to call Sheila at 474-2337 to schedule a meeting with me during class time on a first-come, first served basis. Since there are more members of the class than I can see during the class periods, once the slots are exhausted the only option is to see me during office hours. To make the maximum use of our time, you need to come thoroughly prepared. Instructions will be posted on how to prepare.
- March 22<sup>nd</sup> **Library session.** Either today or March 24<sup>th</sup> we will have a library session with Mrs. Johnson. We will meet at the regular class time in the library classroom (first floor). Unless, that is, the library session is on the 24<sup>th</sup>. In that case, we will meet in class as groups (**see next entry**).
- March 24<sup>th</sup> **Meet in class at the usual time with your respective groups (unless we meet in the library today, see previous entry).** Get acquainted, exchange phone numbers, agree on protocols on how you are going to work together. Instructions will be posted on how to prepare. I will be on hand to assist as needed. Also, we will draw lots on the order of presentation of the groups.
- March 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> **NO CLASS.** Work on your paper and group projects.
- April 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> **Individual** consultations with instructor during class or during office hours. I will meet separately with each of you for about 10-12 minutes. It is your responsibility to call Sheila at 474-2337 to schedule a meeting with me during class time on a first-come, first served basis. Since there are more members of the class than I can see during the class periods, once the slots are exhausted the only option is to see me during office hours. To make the maximum use

of our time, you need to come thoroughly prepared. Instructions will be posted on how to prepare.

April 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>

**Group** consultations on your projects during class or office hours. I will meet separately with each group for about 15 minutes. It is the group spokesman's responsibility to call Sheila at 474-2337 to schedule a meeting with me during class time on a first-come, first served basis. There may be more groups than I can see during the class periods, so once the slots are exhausted the only option is to see me during office hours. To make the maximum use of our time, you need to come thoroughly prepared. Instructions will be posted on how to prepare.

April 19<sup>th</sup>

**Group presentation.**

April 21<sup>st</sup>

**Group presentations.**

April 26<sup>th</sup>

This is the day we are scheduled to have a final exam. We will conclude the **group presentations** and offer final words on dictatorships.

**Paper due** in drop box no later than 7:45 a.m. the next morning, Tuesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. No late papers accepted, no excuses allowed.