

Authoritarian regimes today: How to study authoritarian resilience

May-June 2022

Scientific supervisor: Prof. Giovanni Carbone

Instructors: Ana Lúcia Sá (Iscte – University Institute of Lisbon) and Tiziana Corda (University of Milan)

N. hours: 20 (10 classes)

N. maximum participants: 30

N. ECTS: 3 ECTS

Final evaluation: presentations and attendance (at least 75%)

Eligible participants: students enrolled in BA in **IPLE** and MA in **GPS**

Objectives of the course:

The general aim of this course is to offer an overview of key concepts, cases, and methodological approaches to the study of authoritarianism and of its varieties. More specifically, given the persistence of authoritarian rule in much of today's world, the course will focus on the resilience of authoritarianism and will elucidate the mechanisms autocratic leaders use to uphold their regime's survival. Students will learn how to apply these concepts to the analysis of empirical cases by analysing and discussing recent works in the literature. By the end of the course, students will be able to formulate their own research questions on authoritarianism and on the causes and consequences of its resilience, as well as to conduct empirical research on the topic.

Organization of the course:

The course is divided into two parts. The first part (classes I-IV) will introduce the theoretical and conceptual framework for the study of authoritarian politics. It will also present selected cases of authoritarian resilience in the contemporary international system and debate significant methodological constraints in the study of this field. The second part (classes V-X) will focus on empirical applications related to the concepts presented in part one. Starting from recent works, students will familiarise with empirical research and practice with major datasets used in the field (*Polity IV project*, *V-Dem*, *Freedom House's Freedom in the World*, *GWF Autocratic Regimes dataset*, *African Cabinet and Political Elite Data project*, *Africa Executive Term Limits dataset*, among others). Students will finally have to apply acquired knowledge and tools about authoritarianism to a case study of their choice and present it.

Programme

- I. **19/05, 10.30-12.30:** *Introduction to the study of authoritarianism: Concepts and methodological challenges*
- II. **19/05, 12.30-14.30:** *Authoritarian resilience worldwide*
- III. **20/05, 10.30-12.30:** *Varieties of authoritarian regimes I*
- IV. **20/05, 12.30-14.30:** *Varieties of authoritarian regimes II*
- V. **26/05, 10.30-12.30:** *Empirical research on autocracy (and democracy)*
- VI. **27/05, 10.30-12.30:** *Empirical research on regime transitions and transformations*
- VII. **09/06, 10.30-12.30:** *Empirical research on authoritarian regime institutionalization*
- VIII. **10/06, 10.30-12.30:** *Empirical research on co-optation in the context of authoritarian rule*
- IX. **16/06, 10.30-12.30:** *Empirical research on multiparty elections in authoritarian regimes*
- X. **17/06, 10.30-12.30:** *Group work and presentations*

All classes will be held in Aula Seminari (lato via Conservatorio) except for class VII (09/06), which will be held in Aula Seminari (lato via Passione).

Registration: Students interested in participating in this course are invited to register by sending an email to tiziana.corda@unimi.it **by May 17, 2022.**