Course Title: Politics and the Developing World  
Instructor: Youngjoon Lee  
Email: yjlee@umd.edu  
Office Hours: By Appointment  

Course Number: GVPT282  
Term: Summer, 2021  
Credits: 3  
Course Dates: From Jul 12, 2021–Aug 20, 2021  
Course Times: Online/Asynchronous  

Course Description  
We study political science. Therefore, we need to ask important political science questions. These questions may include, but not limited to, “is the democratic model of economic development superior to the autocratic model?”, “have governments become more repressive in the Internet era than before?”, “why do authoritarian leaders sometimes adopt democratic institutions?”, as well as “why do former dictators’ sons and daughters garner public support?”

Learning Outcomes  
After successfully completing this course, students should be able to:  
- Gain basic knowledge about the politics in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East.  
- Understand the political economy in the developing world.  
- Understand research design required for undergraduate students majoring in political science.  
  · Students are required to submit a research proposal which investigates a topic and/or a country.

Required Resources  
Class materials will be uploaded in the ELMS by the Instructor by 6pm on Monday, Jul 5, 2021. Detailed lists are provided below. Class materials are listed in alphabetical order by the authors’ last names. Students are encouraged to read the assigned materials before attending the lectures.

Course Videos  
GVPT282 is an online (asynchronous) course in summer session II (Jul 12–Aug 20: six weeks). Course videos will be uploaded in the ELMS by 6pm on Monday and Wednesday. Therefore, the total number of course videos will be twelve. Each course video will run for 110 minutes.

UMD Policies and Resources for Undergraduate Courses  
The Instructor observes the University of Maryland's course-related policies maintained by the Office of Undergraduate Studies. For more information about these policies, please refer to https://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html
**Assignments**

**Weekly Response Paper: 75% (=5×15%).**
- This is a critical reflection of **at least one of** the weekly assigned materials, not a summary of them.
- Paper should be submitted to the ELMS by 11:59pm on Friday of Week 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.
- On Week 6, there is no weekly response paper assignment.
- 2 pages, double-spaced, font size: 12.
- The Instructor will provide feedback on the paper within 72 hours after the deadline.

**Final Research Proposal: 25% (=1×25%).**
- Paper should be submitted to the ELMS by 11:59pm on Friday, August 20.
- 5 pages (i.e., 4–6 pages, excluding the bibliography), double-spaced, font size: 12.
- Students are **encouraged** to meet with the Instructor at least once to check if they are on right track.
- The Instructor will provide feedback on the paper within 72 hours after the deadline.

**Note:** The Instructor can allow extensions if students have difficulty completing the assignments.

**Final Grade Cutoffs**
97-100 A+ / 93-96 A / 90-92 A- / 87-89 B+ / 83-86 B / 80-82 B-

**Course outline**

**Week 1 (Jul 12–Jul 16): Introduction**

Recommended Movie on Week 1: *The Last Emperor* (1987) by Bernardo Bertolucci (170 min)

*Class 1: Why Should We Learn the Politics in the Developing World?*


**Class 2: Instability: Foreign Invasions, Elite Coups, and Popular Uprisings**


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**Week 2 (Jul 19–Jul 23): Citizen Protest and State Response**

Recommended Movies on Week 2: *Argo* (2012) by Ben Affleck (130 min)

*Children of Heaven* (1997) by Majid Majidi (90 min)

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**Class 3: Why Do Leaders Sometimes Repress Protestors, While Sometimes Do Not?**


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**Class 4: Have Countries Become More Repressive Than Before?**


Week 3 (Jul 26–Jul 30): Information Revolution

Recommended Movies on Week 3: Jason Bourne (2016) by Paul Greengrass (130 min) 
Clash (2016) by Mohamed Diab (100min)

Class 5: Can Online Censorship Frustrate Aggrieved Citizens?


Class 6: Why Do Leaders Shut Down the Internet, Which Is Very Costly?


Week 4 (Aug 2–Aug 6): Crafting a Research Proposal / Autocrats and Elites

Students are encouraged to meet with the Instructor on Week 4 to discuss their ideas about the final research proposal. My office hours: 9am-12pm on Friday, August 6.
Class 7: Suggestions for Your Final Research Proposal


Class 8: Why Do the Subordinates Sometimes Defy the Superiors’ Mandates?


Week 5 (Aug 9–Aug 13): Democratization and Remnants of Dictatorship

Students are encouraged to meet with the Instructor on Week 5 to discuss their preliminary draft of the final research proposal. My office hours: 9am-12pm on Friday, August 13.

Class 9: Why Do Autocrats Sometimes Adopt Democratic Institutions?


Kim, Nam Kyu, and Jun Koga Sudduth. 2021. “Political Institutions and Coups in Dictatorships.” Comparative Political Studies Published Online.

**Class 10: Why Do Democratic Leaders Often Refrain from Punishing Former Strongmen?**


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**Week 6 (Aug 16–Aug 20): Economic Development in Democracy and Autocracy**

Students are *encouraged* to meet with the Instructor on Week 6 to discuss their *final draft* of the final research proposal. My office hours: 9am-12pm on Friday, August 20.

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**Class 11: Why Do Former Dictators’ Sons and Daughters Gain Public Support?**


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**Class 12: Is the Democratic Model of Economic Development Superior to the Autocratic Model?**


