

Course title	The Rise of Authoritarianism in the U.S. and Europe
Program	International Studies Program
ECTS credits	4,5 (3 USA)
Class hours	45
Office hours	
Requirements	
Language of instruction	English
Type of teaching	In person
Professor	Dr. Mary E. Kelly
Class schedule	Monday to Thursday, 9:00-12:00 pm

INTRODUCTION

- Students will learn about the historical and contemporary issues surrounding authoritarianism. They will use theories and case studies to understand the variables that can contribute to authoritarianism.
- The course will focus on events that are happening currently and will be updated as warranted.
- The course should be interesting for anyone who is concerned about global inequality, current global social issues, and the future of democracy.
- Taking this course will help you to understand the events of today and the near past. You will have a better idea about what you can do to participate in understanding and contributing to social change.

Class Description

This course will explore the history and current social and political concerns about increasing authoritarianism in Europe (especially Russia) and the U.S.. The class will focus on the complex choices ahead for these governments and people.

COMPETENCES

General Competences (GC):

GC1: Understand the causes and consequences of authoritarianism and nationalism today.

Specific Competences (CE):

SC1: Apply theories of authoritarianism to the U.S. and Europe.

SC2: Analyze and evaluate the concerns surrounding authoritarianism and nationalism (especially white nationalism).

METHODOLOGY

The course will use theoretical perspectives from sociology, history, and political science to understand, evaluate and predict authoritarianism. Students will then apply these social theories to case studies in contemporary society. Comparisons will be between the U.S. and relevant European examples. Students will choose at least one country to compare with the U.S. case.

PREPARATION FOR CLASS

- *Students will need to read all the articles and book chapters related to the topic before coming to class. While in class, student should show preparation of the readings by asking relevant questions and making comments related to the topic.*
- *Student should think about questions and relations of the texts with other previous knowledge. Write comments and reflections related to the readings, which can be shared in class to start debates and discussions.*
- *Student takes notes during class presentation and discussions.*

EVALUATION

- **Activities out of the classroom.**
Total 10 %.
- **Exams.**
Mid-term and a final essay exams
Total 25 %.
- **Written work.**
Total 25 %
- **Participation.**
High participation: students are attentive in class, ask relevant questions, make comments, and answer questions. They show interest and are active notetakers.
Low participation: students seem bored or uninterested, don't ask questions, don't make comments and almost never participate in debates, discussions or answer questions.
Total 25%
- Case Study Analysis.

Total 15%

PARTICIPATION	25 %
ACTIVITIES AND FIELD TRIPS	10 %
WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS	25 %

EXAMS	25 % (10% Midterm & 15% final)
Case Study Analysis	15 %

Course Organization & Grading

Emphasis will be on discussion, essay tests, and a case study analysis. Each week will focus on a particular topic with assigned readings and discussion and/or in-class essays. Although I am a sociologist, the books I have chosen are written by an historian. They were chosen because they are clear, concise, and accessible for students who might not have a background on the topics covered in class. The *Road to Unfreedom* focuses on contemporary social issues. The books will be supplemented by current articles focuses on the topics in newspapers, organizational reports, magazines, etc.

The final grade is based on essays, discussions, and participation. The grading scale is based on a 4.0 GPA: 90-100% A, 80-89% B, 70-79% C, 60-69% D, lower than 60% F.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is a violation of academic norms and as such it can result in a failed course. In extreme cases it can include the expulsion from the program.

Cheating on tests will lead to an automatic 0 for the test.

ATTENDANCE (Instituto Franklin-UAH Policy)

Attendance is mandatory. Students are not permitted to miss any classes of the program without proper justification (i.e. emergencies, health problems, in this case students have to show a medical note). The following types of excuses are not justified: family visits, illnesses without a medical note, personal trips, etc. Each unjustified absence will result in a grade deduction of 10 points in the final grade of the class (example: from A to B). Students will not be allowed, in the classroom or fieldtrips, to arrive 10 minutes late or more. If a student has continual delays, he/she will be penalized with an absence and the instructor may not allow them into class or the visit.

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS (Instituto Franklin-UAH Policy)

Students with special needs should contact Antonio Fernández: antonio.fernandezm@uah.es Instituto Franklin-UAH can accommodate these students who show through a medical note or a note from their academic advisor that require help in order to fulfill the program.

USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN CLASS

The use of technology is essential today in education, but if is used inappropriately it can be harmful for students. It is necessary that students ask for permission from the teacher in order to use any technological devices. Faculty should make clear to students in what instances technology can be used.

CLASS SHCEDULE

DAYS	CLASS SCHEDULE	ASSIGMENTS
Week One <i>A short overview of the history of authoritarianism in Europe and the U.S.</i>	Read <i>On Tyranny</i> (very short, easy to read book)	Class discussion Short, in-class writing
Week Two <i>Individualism, totalitarianism, & the failure of democracy</i>	Read <i>The Road to Unfreedom</i> , Chapters 1 & 2	Class discussion Midterm
Week Three <i>Assimilation, pluralism, and traditionalism</i>	Read <i>The Road to Unfreedom</i> , Chapters 3 & 4	Class discussion Case Study Analysis
Week Four <i>Truth (and Lies), Equality, and the Future</i>	Read <i>The Road to Unfreedom</i> , Chapters 5 & 6	Final

Note:

Activities outside of the classroom are subject to change.

BIBLIOGRAHY

Snyder, Timothy. 2019. *The Road to Unfreedom*. NY: The Duggan Books.

Snyder, Timothy. 2017. *On Tyranny*. NY: The Duggan Books.

Contemporary articles on the topic

INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Mary E. Kelly

Dr. Kelly is a sociologist at the University of Central Missouri. Her undergraduate degrees are in Political Science and Spanish and her MA and PhD are in Sociology.

Her interests have focused on identity, inequality, and social change.

