



College of Europe
Collège d'Europe



Natolin

ECTS CARD

STUDY PROGRAMME

European Interdisciplinary Studies, Natolin campus (Advanced Academic Master)

YEAR

2023-2024

COURSE TITLE

Authoritarianism in the Wider Southern Neighbourhood

SEMESTER

2

COURSE PROFESSOR(S)

DEMMEHUBER Thomas

ACADEMIC ASSISTANT(S)

HAMMAMI Amel

COURSE TYPE

Specialist Course

MAJOR(S)

EUN

ECTS CREDITS

4

TEACHING HOURS

20

INDIVIDUAL & GROUP STUDY TIME

80

TUTORIAL(S)

COEFFICIENT

1

LANGUAGE(S)

EN

COURSE OBJECTIVE

Students should be able to develop a theoretical, conceptual and empirical understanding of authoritarian regime types in the wider southern EU neighbourhood.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course, the students will:

- understand the genesis and epistemological turning points in the scholarly literature on authoritarianism
- be able to provide different conceptual approaches to explain autocratic regime survival
- be able to reflect on authoritarianism as a regime-type sui generis
- explain different trajectories of regime survival, regime breakdown and regime change in the wider southern EU neighbourhood

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION

None.

TEACHING METHOD(S)

Lectures, discussions, and student presentations.

ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

- 70% Written exam (3 hours; closed-book, digital, in-class exam; 2 long essay questions [1400 words per essay maximum]; 4 short essay questions [175 words per question maximum]);

- 30% Group oral presentation of 15 minutes to be followed by Q&A moderated by students (for the presentation, students are expected to prepare a PowerPoint presentation).

The College of Europe reserves the right to change the delivery and assessment of the course in case of circumstances beyond the reasonable control of the College (force majeure). Any communication from the campus administration in this regard takes precedence over the information provided in this ECTS card.

Retake examinations, i.e. exams passed in the second examination session, will have the same format as those taken during the first exam session. The only exception concerns oral exams, which are replaced in the second exam session by written exams. When a student takes an examination during the second session, the final mark for the course is based solely on the result of the retake examination. No other element of evaluation which would have been taken into consideration in the calculation of the final mark during the first examination session will be considered in the second session. (art. 27 of the Specific Provisions).

COURSE CONTENTS

This optional course deals with all aspects of autocratic regimes in the southern EU neighbourhood as part of the wider MENA region.

- The first section focuses on terminology, the genesis of the scholarly debate on autocratic regime types and standard concepts of regime survival.
- The second session incorporates more recent trends in the literature, including the international dimension of authoritarianism (e.g. promotion and diffusion of autocratic practices, ideas and norms), processes of autocratization and forms of democratic breakdown.
- The third and final section shall deconstruct "different languages" of autocratic regimes from a comparative perspective including factors such as historical legacies, statehood specifics, religion et al.

COURSE MATERIALS (readings and other learning resources/tools)

See course outline.