This course investigates capitalism developed outside liberal democratic societies. Namely, we will study market capitalism in the societies that are most commonly characterized as authoritarian. In recent decades, there have been an increasing number of successful market economies such as Singapore or China that flourished within political regimes marked by state intervention, cronyism, and lack of transparency. Authoritarian capitalism appears to provide an ideological alternative to the Western model of capitalism based on liberal democratic governance.

Our objective is to bring an anthropological perspective to the study of this phenomenon. Although authoritarian capitalism has been one of the key issues for political scientists, policymakers and the public at large, few anthropologists have engaged with and commented on this analytical category. In this light, we begin the class with an overview of existing scholarship on the phenomenon of authoritarian capitalism. Subsequently, we will engage the studies by anthropologists that have analyzed and discussed similar geographical, political, and economic contexts—but use different conceptual approaches. The purpose of this juxtaposition is to connect the rarely overlapping disciplinary concerns of anthropology and political science to generate some common conclusions. Overall, this course aims to develop a nuanced and comprehensive understanding of capitalism in authoritarian societies.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

1) **Participation (20%)**: Students are expected to have acquainted themselves with the assigned materials and to participate fully in discussion each class. Depending on the size of the class, students will take turns facilitating discussions based on readings. Facilitators are expected to provide a summary of key themes and their own critical evaluation of these ideas. Participation also includes individual meetings with the instructor at least twice a semester in order to develop final ideas for the final paper. I am happy to talk about students’ participation grade at any point of the semester.

2) **Response Questions (25%)**: In response to assigned materials, students will be required to formulate and electronically circulate three questions (*six questions for graduate students) the evening before each class. Questions must engage with major themes and key ideas. A successful question would put different materials in dialogue with each other. This assignment is designed to help students to synthesize and critically evaluate assigned materials. These questions will form the basis for class discussion.
3) **Midterm Exam (20 %):** There will be a take-home mid-term exam, distributed in class on October 19 and due by 5 p.m. on the following Monday. This mid-term will require approximately 5-7 double-spaced pages of high-quality writing in response to a selection of questions offered by the instructor.

4) **Final Paper (35%):** This assignment is an opportunity for students to develop their ideas and interests that emerged out of readings and discussions used in the class. Students must critically discuss at least three of the class readings in a 10-page paper. Graduate students must engage at least five of the class readings and produce a 15-page paper. Students must submit a **Proposal for Final Paper** (3-5 pages) at the end of week 11.

**COURSE OUTLINE:**

**September 7- Week 1: Introduction**

Terms and Definitions. Why Have Anthropologists Shied Away From the Study of Authoritarianism? Outline of the Course.

**September 14- Week 2: Authoritarianism, Democracy, and Capitalism**


**September 21- Week 3: Approaches to Capitalism**


- Introduction to Max Weber’s *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*

September 28- Week 4: *Defining Authoritarianism*

  Chapter 4, pp.159-262
- Paul Sondrol (2009) "Totalitarian and Authoritarian Dictators: A Comparison of Fidel
  Castro and Alfredo Stroessner". *Journal of Latin American Studies* 23 (03), pp. 599-620

October 5- Week 5: *Economics of Authoritarianism*

  *American Ethnologist*, 18(3):419-439

October 12- Week 6: *Colonialism*

- Film: *There Will Be Blood* (2007), 158 min.
- Uday S. Mehta (1997) “Liberal Strategies of Exclusion” in Frederick Cooper and Ann
  Laura Stoler, eds, *Tensions of Empire*, pp.59-86
  54-79
- Aihwa Ong (1999) “Saying No to the West: Liberal Reasoning in Asia.” In *Flexible
  Citizenship: The Cultural Logics of Transnationality*. Durham: Duke University Press,
  pp. 185-213.

October 19- Week 7: *Global Capitalisms: Movements and Forms*

- Aihwa Ong (2006) *Neoliberalism as Exception: Mutations in Citizenship and
  Sovereignty*. Duke University Press, Chapters 3 and 4 (pp.75-120)
- Mayfair Young (2000) "Putting Global Capitalism in its Place: Economic Hybridity,

*Take-home mid-term exam questions will be distributed in class*
October 26- Week 8: *Non-State Authoritarianism: International Development Agencies and Transnational Corporations*


November 2- Week 9: *The State as a Production*


November 9- Week 10: *Political Authority and the Domestic Domain*


November 16-Week 11: *no class (American Anthropological Association Meetings)*

*Proposal for Final Paper (3-5 pages) due on November 19 @ noon*

November 23- Week 12: *Dispositions and Subjectivities*

Asia: Patterns of Business Development in Russia, Eastern Europe, and China edited by Victoria E. Bonnell and Thomas B. Gold, pp.278-324


November 30- Week 13: Marketization of the State/State-ization of the Market

- Mun Young Cho (2011) “We Are the State”: An Entrepreneurial Mission to Serve the People in Harbin, Northeast China” Modern China, 37, pp.422

December 7- Week 14: Paper Presentations

*Final Papers Due on December 11 @ midnight*