

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: **The Myth of the Strongman: Governance and Leadership in Authoritarian States**

Course Number and Section

GLE

2700F 550

Instructor Name(s): Geoff Read

Instructor Email(s): gread4@huron.uwo.ca

Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL Brightspace is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

GLE/HIST 2700F examines the philosophies and practices of authoritarian states with respect to governance and leadership, using historical examples to draw out common themes and tendencies. We will look at a variety of historical and a smaller group of contemporary examples, proceeding thematically rather than chronologically through the course material.

Learning Outcomes: one outcome per entry

Develop knowledge of history of authoritarian states in modern period

Develop knowledge of the types of authoritarian states

Have a good understanding of leadership in authoritarian states

Be able to assess authoritarian leadership styles

Have a good understanding of governance structures and practices in authoritarian states

Be able to assess governance structures and practices in authoritarian states

Be able to describe and discuss the change over time of forms of authoritarianism and their implications

Improve analytical skills

Improve critical reading skills

Improve research skills

Improve writing skills

Improve ability to develop and defend ideas orally in group settings

Textbooks and Course Materials:

All available online

Methods of Evaluation: one assignment per entry

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Attendance and participation		20
Research Essay Proposal	10/2/2026	10
Research Essay	11/23/2026	25
Article vlog post	18/10/2026	10
Mid-Term Exam	26/10/2026	15
Final exam	TBD	20

Tuesday, August 11, 2026

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For Textbooks and Course Materials (below), you are required to include the cost of each textbook or other learning material.

Note whether there are any restrictions that would prevent a student from using a second-hand copy. Here is some suggested text:

- Required textbook: [author, title, edition, publisher, date]. Cost: [insert amount].
 - Or include the weblink of the textbook’s publisher site that includes the cost information.
- Students need to purchase this edition. Second-hand or older editions will not be sufficient.
- OR Students are welcome to purchase second-hand or earlier editions of this textbook.
- This course has an optional field trip that costs [insert amount].
- This course has a required field component that costs [insert amount].

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.