

## COMPARING FOREIGN POLITICAL SYSTEMS

### Paper 2: Totalitarian and Post-totalitarian Politics

**Due date TBA after the in-class exam.** It must be submitted by e-mail by 5pm and in hard copy at the start of the next class period.

#### Instructions:

Please respond to the prompt listed below with an essay that is 1750-1850 words in length (approximately 5-6 pages), excluding a title section, citations, and bibliography. Your essay should be double-spaced, have numbered pages, use standard page margins and fonts, include page-specific and properly formatted citation. Your title page should list the paper's word count.

Before beginning your essay, you need to review carefully the handouts on the course website addressing citation requirements and paper grading criteria. The paper's citations and bibliography should carefully follow one three formats most used in the social sciences: University of Chicago, the APA, or the APSA. For your convenience, my website provides a handout with many formatting examples using the APSA style as well as a chapter from a political science writing manual with examples of APSA citation.

The primary purpose of this assignment is to assess your understanding of and ability to apply the course's specific materials. As such, your essay should center on the reading materials covered in this course unit. Please do not use any outside readings or sources unless you specifically have cleared doing so with me (i.e., you may not use the internet, unassigned authors, or any other student's work, to help you write the exam). Without exception, instances of plagiarism (cases where a student attempts to gain academic credit by submitting an essay in which a significant portion of the writing has been copied, paraphrased without citation, or patch-written from any other author, the internet, or another student) will be reported and punished according to university policy.

#### Paper 2 Essay Topic

- What were the main differences between the undemocratic regimes and the leaders who consolidated tyranny in the Soviet Union and Iran? Why did the Soviet political system eventually collapse, and what differences have allowed Iran's leaders to avoid a similar fate thus far? Today, what are the main differences between these countries' non-democratic regimes and the way their leaders hold onto power? Is there any evidence to suggest that things are getting better or worse in the way that the governments of the countries rule over time?

Please make sure that your essay answers all of these questions in the form of an analytical essay that systematically advances an argument. **Your paper should carefully engage the various reading assignments for this unit, including the *Cases* chapters, the readings from the *Essentials* text, and all of the articles that are relevant to answering the prompt's questions.**