

Concepts of Populism and Radicalism (6 ECTS)

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The slogan 'Populism is on the Rise' can be heard everywhere. From editorials in European and American Newspapers to the Academy; on both sides of the Atlantic the term populism is ubiquitous. But what is populism? Many authors add an adjective like nationalist populism, authoritarian populism, right-wing or left-wing populism. In this course we focus on how different authors have conceptualized populism either as an ideology, or as a political style. We study where the term populism historically originated from and whether its historical roots still play a role today. Then we compare the populism concept to competing concepts such as right-wing radicalism and right-wing extremism. We also pay attention to the role and function of concepts in social science research. In the last part of the seminar we study the relationship between populism and democracy and ask whether populism is a good or a bad thing for affluent liberal democracies.

GRADING

Home essay (8 pp.):	40 %
1 presentation (15 minutes):	30 %
Participation/Engagement:	30 %

TERMS

Students are requested to attend and participate in classes in order to get graded. **More than one absence will automatically lower your final grade after your point total is calculated,** unless you can ***document*** that **all** the absences are related to an illness and/or official university event. For each additional absence your final grade will be lowered by 1/3 (a B becomes a B-, etc.). Late arrival and early departure will not be tolerated.

Policy on Academic Integrity. Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced.

Your writing must be your own work. If you plagiarize egregiously on an assignment, you will fail the course. Simple rule of thumb: "If you use words or ideas that are not your own you must cite your sources. Otherwise you will be guilty of plagiarism."

COURSE STRUCTURE

	Topic	Readings
1	Populism as a historical movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael Kazin. 1995. <i>The Populist Persuasion</i> • Lawrence Goodwyn. 1978. <i>The Populist Moment: A Short History of the Agrarian Revolt in America</i>
2	Populism as a thin ideology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cas Mudde & Cristóbal Rovira Kaltwasser. 2017. <i>Populism</i> • Matthijs Rooduijn. 2014. The Nucleus of Populism
3	Populism as political style	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moffitt, Benjamin. 2016. <i>The Global Rise of Populism.</i> • Paul Taggart. 2000. <i>Populism.</i>
4	Populist, radical or extreme right?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cas Mudde. 1996. The War of Words. • Cas Mudde. 2007. <i>Populist Radical Right Parties in Europe.</i> • Minkenberg, Michael. 2000. The Renewal of the Radical Right
5	Re-imagining the 'people': populists between ethnocracy and democracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jens Rydgren. 2005. Is extreme right-wing populism contagious? • Pierre-André Taguieff. 1993. From Race to Culture.
6	Democratic Representation and Populism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yves Mény and Yves Surel. 2002. <i>Democracies and the Populist Challenge.</i> • Slavoj Žižek. 2006. Against the Populist Temptation.

COURSE READINGS

Goodwyn, Lawrence. 1978. *The Populist Moment: A Short History of the Agrarian Revolt in America*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Kazin, Michael. 1995. *The Populist Persuasion. An American History*. New York: Basic Books.

Mény, Yves and Yves Surel (Ed.). 2002. *Democracies and the Populist Challenge*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Minkenberg, Michael. 2000. The Renewal of the Radical Right: Between Modernity and Anti-modernity. *Government and Opposition*, 35(2), pp.170-188.

- Moffitt, Benjamin. 2016. *The Global Rise of Populism. Performance, Political Style, and Representation*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.
- Mudde, Cas. 1996. The War of Words. Defining the Extreme Right Party Family. *West European Politics* 19 (2), pp. 225-248.
- Mudde, Cas. 2007. *Populist Radical Right Parties in Europe*. Cambridge: Cambridge Univ Press.
- Mudde, Cas, and Cristóbal Rovira Kaltwasser. 2017. *Populism. A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Rooduijn, Matthijs. 2014. The Nucleus of Populism: In Search of the Lowest Common Denominator. *Government and Opposition*, 49(4), pp.573-599.
- Rydgren, Jens. 2005. Is extreme right-wing populism contagious? Explaining the emergence of a new party family. *European Journal of Political Research*, 44(3), pp. 413–437.
- Taggart, Paul. 2000. *Populism*. Buckingham: Open University Press.
- Taguieff, Pierre-André. 1993. From Race to Culture: The New Right's View of European Identity. *Telos*, 98, pp. 99-125.
- Žižek, Slavoj. 2006. Against the Populist Temptation. *Critical Inquiry*, 32(3), pp. 551-574.