Populism, Nationalism and Cosmopolitanism in the 21st Century

A-Basic Information

Semester Number	First
Course Code	M.A. (DLB)0555
Semester Type	Fall
Academic year	2021/2022
Course Pre-requisites	No specific pre-requisite is required.
Credit Points (ECTS)	4 CP
Course Professor	Dr. Oleksandr Svitych
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B-Professional Information

Course Description

We are witnessing a "populist backlash" expressed by a vast array of movements, parties, and leaders across the globe – from Marine Le Pen's *Front National* in France to *Jobbik* in Hungary, to Manuel López Obrador's *MORENA* in Mexico and Pauline Hanson's *One Nation* in Australia. Nationalist sentiments have surged anew both in the "Global North" – as symbolized by Trumpism and Brexit – and in the "Global South" – as represented by aggressive nationalisms in places like India and Brazil. We need to understand the neo-nationalist phenomenon because it signals a fundamental unrest in the current social order. The central question the course asks is the following: what explains the rise of neo-nationalism?

This course is a study of populist nationalism of the contemporary globalized epoch. Structured around three pillars – populism, nationalism, and cosmopolitanism, it starts with the definitions, moves to the main explanations, and concludes with critical reflections. The first part of the course shows that populism has been defined and theorized in many ways: as an ideology, a discourse, a style, or a political strategy. This sections also highlights the interrelationship between populism and nationalism, as well as gives an overview of the main explanations of neo-nationalism. In the following section, several critical approaches to the study of neo-nationalism are examined. The course ends with the discussion of cosmopolitanism as an alternative to the populist nationalism struggle over belonging and meaning.

Course Objectives

This course provides an opportunity to advance the understanding of neo-nationalism that has become the new normal. Its primary objective is to present the populist nationalism appeal as a collective coping strategy adopted by constituencies embattled in overlapping social, economic, and cultural crises. By the end of this course, students will have a firm grasp of the main concepts and related conceptions discussed in the course. They will understand the main causes of neo-nationalism from several analytical angles. Concurrently, they will also try to formulate policies to tackle neo-nationalism in the respective local and national contexts. Finally, this course aims to give students an understanding of the complexity of relationship between populism and cosmopolitanism.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

Knowledge and Understanding

1. Understand the main concepts and conceptions of the course.
2. Understand the analytical and empirical differences between populism and nationalism.
3. Evaluate the connections between populism, nationalism, and cosmopolitanism.
4. Navigate through the myriad of explanations of neo-nationalism.

Professional and Practical Skills

1. Evaluate critically political discourse and rhetoric in the name of "the people."
2. Formulate suggestions for public policies.
3. Work with the relevant surveys and databases.

Critical Thinking and Intellectual Skills

1. Discern distinctions between the related terms "populism," "nationalism," "radical right/left," and "authoritarian populism."
2. Differentiate between ethnic- and civic-based forms of collective identity and mobilization.
3. Become aware of the complexities involved in each concept of the course.
4. Get a clearer sense of one's own position on socio-cultural and socio-economic scales.

General and Transferrable Skills

1. Gather, analyze, and interpret information.
2. Make substantiated and verifiable claims in speaking and writing.
3. Enhance presentation skills.

Course Content/Weekly Plan

Module	Week	Topic	Lecture hrs	Office hrs
Introduction	**1**	*What is populism?* - Overview of the concept - Quiz "How populist are you?" - A brief about course description	3 hrs	1 hr
I. Approaches and explanations	**2**	*Approaches to populism* - Ideational - Political-strategic - Socio-cultural	3 hrs	1 hr
	3	*Explanations of populism* - Demand-side - Supply-side - Combined	3 hrs	1 hr
	4	*Populism and nationalism* - Nationalism as a core ideology - Inclusionary and exclusionary nationalism - Neo-nationalism	3 hrs	1 hr
	5	*Populism across the world* - Western Europe - United States - India	3 hrs	1 hr
	6	*Populism: issues* - Democracy - Foreign policy - Media	3 hrs	1 hr
	7	Revision	3 hrs	1 hr
	8	**Mid-term exam**	3 hrs	1 hr
II. Critical approaches	**9**	Populism and emotions	3 hrs	1 hr
	10	Progressive neoliberalism and beyond	3 hrs	1 hr
	11	The political economy of neo-nationalism	3 hrs	1 hr
III. The	**12**	Populism and cosmopolitanism	3 hrs	1 hr

cosmopolitan alternative	**13**	Rooted cosmopolitanism	3 hrs	1 hr
	14	Prospects for a cosmopolitan order	3 hrs	1 hr
	15	Revision	3 hrs	1 hr
	16	**Final exam**		
	Total contact during the semester		**60 hrs**	

Learning and Teaching Methods

- Overall, the course includes 45 hours of lectures (1 lecture per week), and 15 office hours (1hr per week).
- Students must ensure that they are able to attend the weekly lecture and be involved in different class activities such as group-discussions, group-activities or debates.

Assessment

Student Assessment Methods	Assessment Weights
• Final Exam	30%
• Midterm Exam	30%
• Presentation	30%
• Class Participation	10%

1. **Class participation.** Active participation and regular attendance is required for this class. You are expected to actively engage in class discussions.
2. **Mid-term exam.** It will take place at the 8th week and consist of short essay questions and T/F questions. The exact format may be subject to change and will be confirmed as the course progresses.
3. **Presentation.** This is a group exercise to present a piece of new on a topic related to the course content. The aim is three-fold: 1) present the news per se; 2) critically assess it using the intellectual arsenal provided in the course; 3) provide a policy recommendation. Presentations will be scheduled in the remaining weeks of the semester.
4. **Final exam**. It is in the format of a research paper of no more than 2500 words on a chosen topic. It can (though doesn't not have to) consist of five main sections: introduction, literature review, methods and data, results, and conclusion. Detailed instructions will be announced toward the end of the semester.
   - Rules of plagiarism to be respected
   - Referencing style: any as long as it's consistent.

Plagiarism Rules

Plagiarism is the use of someone else's words OR ideas without proper acknowledgement. Any idea, sentence or paragraph you take from a web source or from printed material must be credited with the original source. If you paraphrase or directly quote in the exam or essays, the source must be explicitly mentioned. You should not plagiarize content, be it from scholarly sources (i.e. books and journal articles) or from the Internet.

Grade Definition

Marks	Grade	Grade Point Average
>=80	O	8
79	A+	7.5
78	A+	7.5
77	A+	7.5
76	A+	7.5
75	A+	7.5
74	A	7
73	A	7
72	A	7
71	A	7
70	A	7
69	A-	6
68	A-	6
67	A-	6
66	A-	6
65	A-	6
64	B+	5
63	B+	5
62	B+	5
61	B+	5
60	B+	5
59	B	4
58	B	4
57	B	4
56	B	4
55	B	4
54	B-	3

Marks	Grade	Grade Point Average
53	B-	3
52	B-	3
51	B-	3
50	B-	3
49.5	F	2
49	P1	2
48	P1	2
47	P1	2
46	P1	2
45	P1	2
44.5	P2	1
44	P2	1
43	P2	1
42	P2	1
41	P2	1
40	P2	1
Less than 40	F	0

Learning Resources

Mandatory Textbooks

- Cristóbal Rovira Kaltwasser, Paul Taggart, Paulina Ochoa Espejo, and Pierre Ostiguy (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Populism* (Oxford, 2017)
- Cas Mudde and Cristóbal Rovira Kaltwasser, *Populism: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford, 2017)
- Scholarly articles assigned for each class

Recommended Textbooks

- Garrett Wallace Brown and David Held (eds.), *The Cosmopolitanism Reader* (Cambridge, 2010)
- Andre Ginrich and Markus Banks (eds.), *Neo-Nationalism in Europe And Beyond: Perspectives from Social Anthropology* (Berghahn, 2006)

Useful Websites

- "The new populism" series by The Guardian: https://www.theguardian.com/world/series/the-new-populism
- POP - Political Observer on Populism: https://populismobserver.com/
- Global Party Survey, https://www.globalpartysurvey.org/