

Populism, Nationalism and Cosmopolitanism in the 21st Century

Basic Information

Semester number	First
Course code	M.A. (DLB)0555
Level	BA & MA
Academic year	Fall 2022
Credit points (ECTS)	4 CP
Course professor	Dr. Oleksandr Svitych E-mail: osvitych@jgu.edu.in

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

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. Become aware of the complexities involved in each concept of the course.
3. 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	Office
Introduction	1	<i>What is populism?</i> - Overview of the concept - Quiz “How populist are you?” - Course overview	3 hrs	1 hr
I. Approaches, explanations	2	<i>Approaches to populism</i> - Ideational - Political-strategic - Socio-cultural	3 hrs	1 hr
	3	<i>Explanations of populism</i> - Demand-side - Supply-side - Combined	3 hrs	1 hr
	4	<i>Populism and nationalism</i> - Nationalism as a core ideology - Different nationalisms - Neo-nationalism	3 hrs	1 hr
	5	<i>Populism across the world</i> - Western Europe - United States - India	3 hrs	1 hr
	6	<i>Populism: issues</i> - Media - Democracy - Fascism	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. Beyond populism	12	Populism and cosmopolitanism	3 hrs	1 hr
	13	Rooted cosmopolitanism	3 hrs	1 hr
	14	Populism and the COVID-19 pandemic	3 hrs	1 hr
	15	Revision	3 hrs	1 hr
	16	Final exam		
Total contact during the semester			60 hrs	

List of readings

- Week 1 This is an introductory class. No readings are required.
- Week 2 Rogers Brubaker, *Why Populism?*, pp. 357–364
Populism: A Very Short Introduction, ch. 1
The Oxford Handbook of Populism, chs. 2–4
- Week 3 Rogers Brubaker, *Why Populism?*, pp. 368–379
Populism: A Very Short Introduction, ch. 6
The Oxford Handbook of Populism, ch. 14
The Waldo Moment (2013)
- Week 4 Isaiah Berlin, *National Sentiment*, pp. 267–269
The Oxford Handbook of Populism, ch. 18
Daphne Halikiopoulou et al., *The paradox of nationalism*, pp. 504–513
Maureen A. Eger and Sarah Valdez, *From radical right to neo-nationalist*
Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, *Religious Nationalism and India's Future*
- Week 5 *The Oxford Handbook of Populism*, chs. 9, 12, 13
Populism in Asian Democracies, ch. 5
Ajay Gudavarthy, *India after Modi*, pp. 45–50, 77–84, 91–94, 103–111
Priya Chacko, *The Right Turn in India: Authoritarianism, Populism and Neoliberalisation*
Catarina Kinnvall, *Populism, ontological insecurity and Hindutva: Modi and the masculinization of Indian politics*
Get Me Roger Stone (2017)
- Week 6 *Populism: A Very Short Introduction*, ch. 5
The Oxford Handbook of Populism, chs. 19, 24, 28

- Week 7 Revision. No readings are required.
- Week 8 **Mid-term exam**
- Week 9 Ajay Gudavarthy, *India after Modi*, pp. 41–44
 Dominique S. Wirz, *Persuasion Through Emotion? An Experimental Test of the Emotion-Eliciting Nature of Populist Communication*
 Mikko Salmela and Christian von Scheve, *Emotional roots of right-wing political populism*
- Week 10 Albenaz Azmanova, *The populist catharsis: On the revival of the political*
 Nancy Fraser, *From Progressive Neoliberalism to Trump – and Beyond*
 Nancy Fraser and Rahel Jaeggi, *Capitalism: A Conversation in Critical Theory*, pp. 215–226
 Slavoj Žižek, *Like A Thief in Broad Daylight*, pp. 75–86
- Week 11 Christian Fuchs, *Donald Trump: A Critical Theory-Perspective on Authoritarian Capitalism*, pp. 1–9, 63–66
 Don Kalb and Gábor Halmai, *Headlines of Nation, Subtexts of Class: Working-Class Populism and the Return of the Repressed in Neoliberal Europe*, pp. 1–18
 Karl Polanyi, *The Great Transformation*, pp. vii–xvii
 Heikki Patomäki, *Disintegrative Tendencies in Global Political Economy: Exits and Conflicts*, pp. 1–6, 16–34
 Toby Carroll et al. *Capital, conflict and convergence: a political understanding of neoliberalism and its relationship to capitalist transformation*
- Week 12 Martha Nussbaum, *Patriotism and Cosmopolitanism*
The Oxford Handbook of Populism, ch. 33
Ghore Baire (1984)
- Week 13 Anthony Appiah, *Cosmopolitan Patriots*
 Ulrich Beck, *Power in the Global Age*, pp. 35–43
Ghore Baire (1984)
- Week 14 Katsambekis, G. and Stavrakakis, Y., eds. (2020). *Populism and the Pandemic. A Collaborative Report*, pp. 3–9
 Tithi Bhattacharya, T. and Gareth Dale. *Covid Capitalism. General Tendencies, Possible “Leaps.”*
 William H. Westermeyer, *Freedom over Fear: Fundamentalist Populism and the Challenge of COVID-19*
- Week 15 Revision. No readings are required.
- Week 16 **Final exam**
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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	40%
• Midterm exam	25%
• Presentation	25%
• 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 critically assess the previous lecture's readings. The task is three-fold: 1) summarize what has been covered; 2) comment critically on these ideas; 3) discuss the contemporary relevance (ideally relating to a piece of news or a political issue).
4. **Final exam.** An extended version of the mid-term exam consisting of several practical and theoretical tasks. Detailed instructions will be announced as the course progresses.
 - 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

- Sook Jong Lee, Chin-en Wu, and Kaustuv Kanti Bandyopadhyay (eds.), *Populism in Asian Democracies* (Brill, 2021)

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/>