

Populism as a threat to constitutionalism, democracy, and the rule of law

UGRA_015769

Departments	Department of International, European Union and Comparative Law, Department of Law
Teaching Languages	English
ECTS	5
Teacher responsible	Lorne Nolan Richards - lorne.walker@esade.edu

Course Goals To introduce the students to the political phenomenon of populism, its theory and application in Europe, the Americas and elsewhere.

The student will be capable of:

- 1) Understanding the evolution of the concept of populism;
- 2) Familiarising themselves with the rise of populism.
- 3) Analysing the effect of populist actors on the rule of law and national and international institutions.

Previous knowledge Previous knowledge of global politics and political theory is desired but not essential.

Prerequisites Previous political theory subjects and a knowledge of international politics is desired but not essential.

Teaching methodology Class lectures, readings, presentations and debates.

Description

Course contribution to program To introduce the students to the political phenomenon of populism. This will enable students to identify the phenomenon in their own country and in the global political order.

Short description This course explores the evolution of the concept of populism from the

nineteenth century to the present.

The focus is on the characteristics of the phenomenon and its impact on national and international institutions.

The seminar adopts a case-study methodology combined with lectures, readings and presentations.

Bibliography

Jan Werner Müller, *What is Populism?* Penguin 2017 (Book)

Mudde, Cas and Rovira Kaltwasser, *Cristóbal, Populism. A Very Short Introduction.* OUP 2017. (Book)

Michael L. Conniff, *A historiography of populism and neopopulism in Latin America*, *History Compass*. 2020;18:e12621. (Article)

DANIEL F. WAJNER, *Embracing or Rebuffing "the International"? Populist Foreign Policy and the Fourth Wave of Populism in Latin America*, *Global Studies Quarterly* (2023) 0, 1–13 (Article)

Cas Mudde and Cristóbal Rovira Kaltwasser, *Exclusionary vs. Inclusionary Populism: Comparing Contemporary Europe and Latin America*, *Government and Opposition*, Vol. 48, No. 2, pp. 147–174, 201 (Article)

Kristian Humble, *Populism and the Threat to International Law*, *Laws MDPI* (Article)

Benjamin De Cleen and Juan Alberto Ruiz Casado, *Populism of the Privileged: On the Use of Underdog Identities by Comparatively Privileged Groups*, *Political Studies* 1–21 2023 (Article)

Koch, Cédric M.; Meléndez, Carlos; Kaltwasser, Cristóbal Rovira, *Mainstream Voters, Non-Voters and Populist Voters: What Sets Them Apart?*, *Political Studies*, 20th October 2021 (Article)

Alberto López Ortega, *The personality is political (especially for populists)*, *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties* (Article)

Rupert Cocke, *Hedgehog Politicians Are Dangerous for Society*, <https://sharpenyouraxe.substack.com/p/hedgehog-politicians-are-dangerous> (Blog)

Activities

In-class discussions and debates

Written and/or oral exams

Group presentations

Students will present about a populist movement or politician they are familiar with

Content

#	Topic
1	Introduction to Populism. This topic will introduce students to the concept of populism, its definition, and how to identify it.
2	Jan Werner Müller's 7 points. One notable definition of populism is provided by Jan Werner Müller. He provides 7 points that define populism and this topic explores and analyzes these points.
3	Populist Voters. This section identifies populist voters and explores their motivations for doing so.

#	Topic
4	Populism in Europe v Latin America This section compares and contrasts the impact of populism in these two prominent continents.
5	Upward Punching v Downward Punching Populism. Populist actors usually focus on either criticising their perceived social superiors or inferiors, that is to say, punching upwards or downwards. These practises will be explored and analysed.
6	Internal v External Populism. This section explores, compares and contrasts the preferred practice of various populist actors.

Assessment

Tool	Assessment tool	Category	Weight %
Attendance and punctuality		Ordinary round	10.00%
Written and/or oral exams		Ordinary round	60.00%
Group project		Ordinary round	20.00%

PROGRAMS

113-Law Exchange Program (Undergraduates: Law)
113 Year 1 (Optative)