

**Antalya Bilim University**  
**POLS 430/486 Comparative Populism**  
**Spring 2024**

Class time: Thursday, 13.30-16.20

Office hours: Friday, 14.00—15.00

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(A2-70)

Populism has been a recent topic in political science which raises important questions about the basic concepts of the discipline such as democracy, representation and liberalism. Populist policies are gaining ground across the globe, in a context of generational, technological, and cultural change. Hence, the recent rise in populism also closely relates to changes in citizens' political attitudes such as declining trust in formal institutions and political interest. In this course, students are encouraged to adopt a comparative approach to understand the conceptual discussions about populism on the one hand, to discuss the implications of the recent populist wave on democratic institutions and global politics on the other.

This course is about one of the most contemporaneous and contentious topics in the field. Hence, students are expected to engage in the most recent debates in the field by reflecting upon the weekly discussions materials during class discussions. For this purpose, different case studies from different parts of the globe are presented via different information sources such as newspaper articles, TEDX talks or recorded live seminars of distinguished professors in the field.

**Course book:**

The instructor will upload the written material on the LMS system. The webpages for the podcasts and talks are indicated in the syllabus.

**Expectations & Requirements:**

- 1) Attendance & Participation (%5):** Attendance is COMPULSORY in this course. Your grade is comprised of both attendance and participation. Student who miss 30% of the classes fails from the class with an FX. The responsibility to keep track of one's class absences belongs to students.
- 2) Mid-term (25%):** Students will have one mid-term exam throughout the semester, which constitutes 25% of the overall grade. Midterm will base on ALL the course material we cover until the exam date.

- 3) Quizzes (20%):** There will be 6 (eight) quizzes in this course; the average of five quizzes with the highest grades will count for 20% of the overall grade. The quiz will be 15 minutes of duration and it will base on the weekly material. The first quiz will be given in the third week.
- 4) Final exam (50%):** Students will have one final exam at the end of the semester, which makes 50% of your overall grade. The majority of the final exam questions base on the course material we cover after the midterm exam.

### **Expected Student Conduct in the Classroom**

The expected student conduct during on-line classes includes and not limited to:

- ✓ Coming to class on time and not leaving the class early without prior permission of the instructor.
- ✓ Focusing carefully on the course and avoiding engaging in not-class related activities such as checking e-mails from laptops/cell phones, reading not-class related materials such as newspapers and magazines and checking content from social media.
- ✓ Students are expected to behave mindful about the instructor as well as the fellow students while asking questions and making comments. They should request permission from the instructor before asking a question or making a comment. Also, they should respect other student's right to ask questions/make comments.
- ✓ Students are encouraged to turn off their cell phones during the class time and they should use their laptops only for class-related purposes.

### **Course Schedule**

#### **WEEK 1. (Feb. 12-18) Introduction**

#### **WEEK 2-4. (19 Feb.-10 March) The conceptual framework**

Cas Mudde and Christobal Rovira Kaltwasser, *Populism: A Short Introduction*, Oxford University Press, 2017. Chapter 1.

Jan-Werner Müller, *What is Populism?*, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2016. Chapter 1.

Canovan, Margaret. 1999. "Trust the People! Populism and the Two Faces of Democracy." *Political Studies* 47(1): 1-16.

Paul Taggart (2004) Populism and representative politics in contemporary Europe, *Journal of Political Ideologies*, 9:3, 269-288, DOI: 10.1080/1356931042000263528

### **Discussion materials:**

Cas Mudde explains populism <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CHbnKcJhJHA>

The Dangers of Populism - Interview with Jan-Werner Müller  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ahtvsNU2bkk>

### **WEEK 5-7 (11-31 March) Populism and liberal democracy**

Cas Mudde, Populism in Europe: An Illiberal Democratic Response to Undemocratic Liberalism (The Government and Opposition/Leonard Schapiro Lecture 2019), Government and Opposition, 2021, 56, 577-597

Yasha Mounk. "The Undemocratic Dilemma" Journal of Democracy, 29, no.2 (2018): 98-112.

Colgan, Jeff D. And Keohane, R. "The Liberal Order is Rigged" Foreign Affairs, May/June, 2017, 36-44.

Caramani, Daniele. 2017. "Will vs. Reason: The populist and technocratic forms of political representation and their critique to party government" American Political Science Review 111(1): 54-67.

#### **Discussion materials:**

Podcast: Transformation of European Politics Podcast with Dan Ziblatt

Podcast: Transformation of European Politics Podcast with Rafaela Dancygier

### **WEEK 8. MIDTERM (1-7 Apr.)**

### **WEEK 9-11 (8-28 April) Populism, cultural change, and representation**

Hanspeter Kriesi (2014) The Populist Challenge, West European Politics, 37:2, 361-378, DOI: 10.1080/01402382.2014.887879

J. Eric Oliver and Wendy M. Rahn. 2016. 'Rise of the Trumpenvolk: Populism in the 2016 Election.' Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science 667 (1): 189-206.

Céline Teney, O.P. Lacewell, P. de Wilde (2014) Winners and losers of globalization in Europe: attitudes and ideologies, European Political Science Review (2014), 6:4, 575-595 doi:10.1017/S1755773913000246

Merkel, W., and F. Scholl. 2018. "Illiberalism, Populism and Democracy in East and West." Politologický časopis - Czech Journal of Political Science 25 (1): 28-44.  
<https://doi.org/10.5817/PC2018-1-28> .

Rogers Brubaker (2017) Between nationalism and civilizationism: the European populist moment in comparative perspective, Ethnic and Racial Studies, 40:8, 1191-1226, DOI: 10.1080/01419870.2017.1294700

#### **Discussion material:**

The Populist Revolt with David Goodhart <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ynbbTGEqqc>

Christopher Kabakis, TEDx Talk, Talk like Trump - understanding populist speech and how to overcome it, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9gluW2J7LKY>

## **WEEK 12 (29 Apr.- 5 May) Populism and social movements**

Cas Mudde and Christobal Rovira Kaltwasser, *Populism: A Short Introduction*, Oxford University Press, 2017. Chapter 3-4.

Paolo Gerbaudo, 2022. "From Occupy Wall Street to the Gilets Jaunes: On the populist turn in the protest movements of the 2010s" *Capital & Class*, 1-18, DOI: 10.1177/03098168221137207

### **Discussion materials:**

The Tea Party Movement- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4-c2SAjLFA>

Occupy Wall Street: the story behind seven months of protest-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KFOWci6yrSs>

## **WEEK 13-14 (6- 19 May) Neoliberal populism**

Kurt Weyland (1999). "Neoliberal Populism in Latin America and Eastern Europe," *Comparative Politics* , Vol. 31, No. 4, pp. 379-401

Hutter, S., H. Kriesi, and G. Vidal. 2018. "Old versus New Politics the Political Spaces in Southern Europe in Times of Crises." *Party Politics* 24 (1): 10–22. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1354068817694503>

Erdem Aytaç and Ziya Öniş, "Varieties of Populism in a Changing Global Context: The Divergent Paths of Erdoğan and Kirchnerismo", *Comparative Politics*, 47 (1), 41-59.

Ahmet Bekmen & Barış Alp Özden (2022) *The Rise and Demise of Neoliberal Populism as a Hegemonic Project: Brazil, Thailand, and Turkey, Rethinking Marxism*, 34:3, 338-360, DOI: 10.1080/08935696.2022.2069459