Content

Course Code	Course Name	Semester	Theory	Practice	Lab	Credit	ECTS
SP427	Rethinking Populism	5	3	0	0	3	5

Prerequisites	
Admission Requirements	

Language of Instruction	French
Course Type	Elective
Course Level	Bachelor Degree
Objective	The course aims to provide an in-depth critical study of populist practices and transformations in contemporary societies using various theoretical approaches and models that develop different points of view and analytical tools, with particular emphasis on the transformation of representative and party systems.
Content	This course proposes an analysis of populism as an equivocal-polysemic phenomenon. Populism is often used in social science studies with different meanings to describe an ideology, a strategy, a style, a political form or a type of discourse. In addition, there is the frequent use of the term by political actors and the media of all categories which can be often inappropriate regarding the situation. The polysemous over-use of this term then causes a conceptual ambiguity, which constitutes an obstacle to seize the socio-political transformations in the contemporary world. To avoid any ambiguity, or even error, we will try, in this course, to define the contours of debates on populism as much as possible by focusing in particular on the origin and the results of what we can call “populist transformations” in contemporary political systems. After an effort to define the term “populism”, we will introduce the classical and new approaches to the subject that will lead us to an inquiry on the relationship between populism and representative democracy. In this context, we will propose a discussion on transformations of participative and representative mechanisms, in particular through populist challenges on mainstream political parties. We will conclude on the evolution of voting attitudes and mechanisms of political participation that respond to populist rhetoric while feeding it in return. The course content will be enriched by the presentation of case studies and the intervention of invited specialists.
References	Abts, Koen et Rummens, Stefan, « Populism versus Democracy », Political Studies, vol. 55, 2007, pp. 405-424. Acemoglu, Daron, Georgy Egorov et Konstantin Sonin, « A political theory of populism », The Quarterly Journal of Economics, 128(2), 2013, pp. 771-805. Albertazzi, Daniele et McDonnell, Duncan, « Introduction : The Sceptre and the Spectre », Twenty-First Century Populism, The Spectre of Western European Democracy, New York : Palgrave Macmillan, 2008, pp. 1-15. Alston, Philip, The Populist Challenge to Human Rights. Journal of Human Rights Practice, 9(1), 2017, pp. 1-15. Aslanidis, Paris, « Is populism an ideology ? A refutation and a new perspective », Political Studies, 64(1S), 2016, pp. 88-104. Bale, Tim., Van Kessel, Stijn., & Taggart, Paul, "Thrown around with abandon? Popular understandings of populism as conveyed by the print media: A UK case study," Acta Politica, 46(2), 2011, pp. 111-131. Betz, Hans-Georg, "Exclusionary Populism in Austria, Italy, and Switzerland", International Journal, 56(3), pp. 393-420. Canovan, Margaret, Populism, London : Junctions Books, 1982. Canovan, Margeret, « Trust the People ! Populism and the Two Faces of Democracy », Political Studies, XLVII, 1999, pp. 2-16. Canovan, Margaret, « Taking Politics to the People : Populism as the Ideology of Democracy », in Y. Mény and Y. Surel (Eds), Democracies and the Populist Challenge, New York : Palgrave, 2002, pp. 25-44. Collier, Ruth Berins & Collier, David, Shaping the Political Arena: Critical Junctures, the Labor Movement, and Regime Analysis in Latin America, Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 2002. Donovan, Todd et Jeffrey A. Karp, « Popular support for direct democracy », Party politics, 12 (5), 2006, pp.

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Theory Topics

Week	Weekly Contents
1	Introduction: presentation of the course and position of the problems. Methodological issues ın the study of populism in political science
2	What is populism? The general characteristics of populism
3	Brief overview of the main theories and debates on populism. Critical review of the literature on populism
4	Populism and democracy: A pathology, a symptom or a new form of politics?
5	The transformation of state-party-society relations. The "cartelization" of political parties in the post-1989 era
6	The rise of anti-system parties. Can we speak of "populist parties"?
7	Mid-term exam
8	The transformation of socio-political cleavages. Is populism "on the left" or "on the right"?
9	The rise of populism in Europe. Antoine Vitkine's documentary (Roche Roche Production, Arte France): "Populisme, l'Europe en danger"

Week	Weekly Contents
10	The new authoritarian “democracies” Authoritarian Populism(s)
11	Case studies
12	Case studies
13	New dynamics of political participation. Is the “populist” vote “popular”?
14	The magic of the call to the people: the anatomy of a “populist” discourse