This is a research-heavy course that focuses on populist movements and regimes. We first discuss the major sociological approaches to populism: modernization theory; Marxism and post-Marxism; institutionalism; cultural (performative, ideological) analyses; and social movement theory. We then turn to the world-historical development of populism and discuss its ebbs and flows by focusing on specific cases. The overall goal is understanding what has brought us to the current populist moment.

The precursor to the current global populist wave was the rise of new movements and regimes in Latin America in the 1990s. After the 2008 financial crisis, revolutions and protests erupted in quite dissimilar geographies: the Tea Party and Occupy Wall Street in the US, the failed Arab revolutions, horizontalist revolts in Southern Europe, and right-wing radicalization in Venezuela, Ukraine, France, Poland, Hungary, Turkey, Italy, and India. The more recent rise of Trump, Bolsonaro, Farage, Corbyn, Syriza, Podemos, Modi, Duterte, and Sanders/DSA shows that the trend is intensifying. What are the sociological dynamics behind this global rise of populism (and the decline of the liberal-conservative center)?

Lectures will focus on the mentioned cases, as well as historical precursors (the People's Party in the US, Narodnism in pre-Bolshevik Russia, Revolutionary Path in Turkey, Peronism, Maoism, Titoism, fascism, Nazism, and Italian Communism). Students will write a research paper on one or two historical and/or contemporary case(s).

**Assignments and final paper**

Each student will choose one (or more) populist movement(s) and analyze them along (some of) the following axes: reasons for emergence; demographic bases of support; main resources; policy implications; the prominence of violence; leader-mass organization balance; reasons for success or failure; and impact on democracy and/or capitalism-socialism. Your reading and analysis on this movement(s) will develop throughout the semester. Here are the specific steps you will take:

**Step 1.** You will decide which movement(s) you are going to cover. You will submit a page on the movement(s) you have chosen and your rationale. (Note: I will provide a set of cases you can choose from, but you will not be restricted to that list. I will also suggest some readings on each of the cases). Your response has to specify the following: why is your case populist? What makes it more interesting than other cases of populism? (These answers will help you with the methodology/case selection and literature review sections of your final paper for the course).
Step 2. You will submit a bibliography: a collection of at least 5 books and 5 articles you need to read on this topic. As you move along, you need to compile an additional set of 10-15 texts (which you might not read in their entirety, but will become familiar with).

Step 3. You will turn in a preliminary outline, which will address the following:

1a) Your research question; 1b) A discussion of how this question addresses the gaps in the populism literature – 1 page;

2) Case selection and justification (along with methods of study) – 1-2 paragraphs;

3) Main argument(s) and the highlights of your analysis – 1-2 pages.

Step 4. You will submit preliminary tables summarizing your analysis of the movements’/regimes’ economic policy (and/or rhetoric), race and immigration policy (and/or rhetoric), and at least four other issues (of your own choosing). I will provide more guidelines on how to do this.

Step 5. You will be ready to present all comparisons and contrasts to class.

After the first month of class, you will submit short memos that summarize the additional articles/books you have read that week for your project.

All of these distinct steps will add up to the final paper. (I will provide more guidelines on this as well). The paper will present your findings on the movements of your choice in an academic article format.

Class meetings and discussion: There will be more lectures in the beginning. After the first four weeks, more participation will be required.

Grading:
Attendance and participation: 20%
Assignments (Steps 1-5; short memos): 30%
Presentation: 10%
Final paper: 40%
READINGS

THE MAJOR APPROACHES

Week 1: Modernization theory


Optional reading:

Week 2: Marxist theories


Optional reading:

Week 3: Post-Marxism and discourse analysis


**Week 4: Institutional analyses**


*Optional reading:*


**Week 5: Populism as style**


**Week 6: Populism as thin-centered ideology**


**Week 7: Populism as mobilization**


**Week 8: New theoretical directions**


**CASES AND STUDENT PRESENTATIONS**

**Week 9: Latin America**


**Week 10: Africa**


**Week 11: Europe and the United States**


Optional reading:


Week 12: Southeast Asia and the Middle East


Optional reading: