

**Wesleyan University**  
**Department of Public Policy**  
**SYLLABUS** (11/5/23 subject to change)  
**CSPL 318Z-1 Global Populism, Winter, 2024**

Professor:	Esam Boraey	Telephone:	202-569-2323
Class:	M-Th 1 – 6 PM	Office hours:	Half an hour after class or by
E-mail:	eboraey@wesleyan.edu	appointment	

## **COURSE OVERVIEW**

The purpose of this class is to study the global phenomena of populism and its connection to the U.S. presidential election. In this course, we will unpack the factors pushing communities worldwide toward these political ideologies as well as the impact it has on global politics and international relations. We'll take a deep dive into the 2020-2024 campaign cycle in the age of digital campaigning and online voting and analyze how Donald Trump and Senator Bernie Sanders are shaping our political discourse and how they fit into the global trend of populism. We'll study the defeat of democratic movements like the Arab Spring and the rise of authoritarian regimes in the region.

Additionally, we'll break down how the failure of democratic movements in the MENA region led to the refugee crisis, which in turn inspired right-wing radicalization within Europe and the United States. This course provides an overview of the political landscape of the populism movements in the U.S and around the world, focusing on the collapse of democratic movements and the rise of populist leaders like Donald Trump, Boris Johnson, Narendra Modi, Jair Bolsonaro and Marine Le Pen, among others. We'll begin with a brief overview of the history of populism and the theory behind it, before breaking down modern applications. In this course, we will attempt to understand the current political situation in the U.S. from a global perspective. We will examine the rise of populism, on both the right and the left, and analyze if this a global trend, local problem, or a historical moment as the life cycle goes.

## **METHOD**

We will aim to study the growing force of populism in the world and its foothold on the American electoral process. This course will be primarily focused on classroom discussions, which will be occasionally complemented by short lectures. We will run this course as a discussion seminar, and as such, I expect everyone in class to participate actively throughout the term. Active participation requires you to contribute, not merely to receive—though respectful, open-minded, critical listening is also crucial to a good seminar. Active contribution can take various forms: asking questions, bringing up interesting examples and counterexamples, presenting opposing points of view, reporting back to the class on small-group discussions, etc. but it all requires you to voice ideas. This is admittedly easier for some and harder for others, but discussions are a space where you can try out ideas, even ones that might not be fully fleshed out. This community only works if we trust each other and have the courage to take part in the discussion.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND STUDENT EVALUATION**

Reading Reflection: 20%

Term paper: 50%

Attendance and participation: 15%

Presentation: 15%

Reading Reflection; during the first 15 minutes of each other class, each student will be required to reflect on the class reading and lecture by writing a short essay responding to one or more issue that was mentioned in the reading assignment for that day.

Term papers are 10 pages research papers on topics of your choice that is relevant to the seminar. References should be in APA format.

Everybody is expected to be present at every class and involved in the conversation. You should come to class with the readings complete and annotated and come up with 1-2 thoughtful comments or questions about each one. Each person may miss one class no questions asked; beyond that, absences without explanation or a reasonable justification will count against your participation grade.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

Jan 9:	T1. Introduction: Populism; Theory and Background
Jan 10:	T2. Populism in the U.S: New Leadership in Trump's Era
Jan 11:	T3. Populism in Europe: Is the Right Wing Winning the Battle?
Jan 15:	T4. A Comparative Perspective: Latin American Populism
Jan 16:	T5. Populism in Asia: Meet the E-Generation
Jan 17:	T6. Populism in the Middle East: From BLM to Tahrir Square
Jan 18:	T7. Media and religion Under Populist Regimes: Chosen by God?
Jan 22:	T8. Student Presentations
Jan 24:	Final Paper Due

## READINGS

**Students are expected to complete readings prior to class**

T1: Introduction: Populism; Theory and Background.

- Müller Jan-Werner. *What Is Populism?* Penguin Books, 2017. Chapter 2
- Richard Evans [Is populism a threat to democracy?](#) Gresham College 6/16/20 (60 mins)
- Takis Pappas 'Populists in power' *Journal of Democracy* 2019 30 (2): 70-83.

T2. Populism in the U.S: New Leadership in Trump's Era

- Ronald Inglehart & Pippa Norris ['Trump and the populist authoritarian parties'](#) *Perspectives on Politics* 15 (2) 2017: 443–454

T3. Populism in Europe: Is the Right Wing Winning the Battle?

- Astier, Cristina, & Errasti, Ander. (2018). The European Crisis of Politics: Ethnoreligious Pluralism and the Rise of Radical Populism and Far-Right in Europe. *Cuadernos Europeos de Deusto*, 59, 19.
- The State of Populism in the European Union Pages 10-21.

T4. A Comparative Perspective: Latin American Populism

- Bipolar Disorders: Varieties of Capitalism and Populist Out-Flanking on the Left and Right
- Doyle, D. (2011). The Legitimacy of Political Institutions. *Comparative Political Studies*, 44(11), 1447–1473.

T5. Populism in Asia: Meet the E-Generation

- Chacko, P. (2018). The Right Turn in India: Authoritarianism, Populism and Neoliberalisation. *Journal of Contemporary Asia*, 48(4), 541–565.
- Hewison, K. (2017). Reluctant populists: Learning populism in Thailand. *International Political Science Review*, 38(4), 426–440.

T6. Populism in the Middle East: From BLM to Tahrir Square

- Anderson, L. (2018). Bread, dignity and social justice. *Philosophy & Social Criticism*, 44(4), 478–490.
- Sawae, Fumiko. “Populism and the Politics of Belonging in Erdoğan’s Turkey.” *Middle East Critique* 29.3 (2020): 259–273. Web.

#### T7. Media and religion Under Populist Regimes: Chosen by God?

- Gerbaudo, P. (2018). Social media and populism: an elective affinity? *Media, Culture & Society*, 40(5), 745–753.
- Richard T. Hughes, “The Myth of the Chosen Nation: The Colonial Period,” in *Myths America Lives By* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2003), 19-44.

#### T8. Student Presentations