



Political Populism Seminar
Wednesday, 8-10 am
Room: UNICOM 3.3380
Sommersemester 2017
MA4-2
Dr. Elizaveta Gaufman
InIIS, University of Bremen
Office Hours: Tue 15.00-16.00

POLITICAL POPULISM MA SEMINAR

Rationale: Aim of this seminar is to dissect the phenomenon of political populism based on one of the most glaring and frightening examples – Donald Trump. Even though the ‘inspiration’ for this course is a specific politician, the seminar intends to extrapolate the phenomenon of political populism to other countries that provide similar political platforms. The seminar will consist of three major parts: sources, parts, and themes of political populism. In each part the students will be asked to examine a problematique based on obligatory texts and in case they are presenting the topic to dig deeper into the further reading list. The following syllabus was inspired by ‘Trump 101’ syllabus published on Higher Education, but amended and expanded to include topics of race, gender and others. It also includes crowdsourced suggestions from the [Duck of Minerva](#).

Course requirements (General Studies):

30’ presentation with a handout OR essay (3 CP)

oral exam OR seminar paper (6 CP)

Presentation is graded according to the following criteria:

- Presentation of core arguments or facts
- Use of academic sources
- Use of examples and illustrations
- Clarity and organization of **handout**
- Clarity and structure of presentation
- Length of handout and presentation
- Summary and connection to relevant **academic** debates



Essay follows the general rules from the [Political Science Compendium](#) and is graded according to the following criteria:

- Clear structure with an introduction, main part and conclusions
- Clear research question
- Quality of your argumentation
- Selection of academic sources
- List of references

Oral exam consists of three topics on pre-selected course sessions of your own choosing.

Seminar paper should be approx. 15-20 pages long (without annexes). Students who wish to obtain 6 CP in this seminar can reduce the expected length of the seminar paper to 12-15 pages by volunteering for an oral presentation. Papers may be written in English or German and must be handed in by 1 August 2017 in electronic form to gaufman@uni-bremen.de.

For MA Political Science students in Political Theory Module:

- 30' presentation with a handout OR essay
- oral exam OR seminar paper

The module is worth 12 CP.



Syllabus and Literature list

Unit 1: Sources

1. DEMAGOGUERY AND DEMOCRACY

Luthin, Reinhard H. (1951). Some Demagogues in American History. *The American Historical Review*, 57(1), 22-46.

Further reading:

Finley, M. (1962). Athenian Demagogues. *Past & Present*, (21), 3-24. Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/649993>

The Federalist Papers, 9, 10;
Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, Vol. 1, Book 1, chap. 5 (1835).

2. THE AMERICAN DREAM

Kasser, T., & Ryan, R. M. (1996). Further examining the American dream: Differential correlates of intrinsic and extrinsic goals. *Personality and social psychology bulletin*, 22(3), 280-287.

Manza, J., & Brooks, C. (2014) Prisoners of the American Dream?
Americans' Attitudes toward Taxes and Inequality in the New Gilded Age

Further reading: Davis, M. (1986). *Prisoners of the American dream: Politics and economy in the history of the US working class*. Verso.

3. POPULISM

Mudde, C. (2004). The populist zeitgeist. *Government and opposition*, 39(4), 542-563

Canovan, M. (1999). Trust the people! Populism and the two faces of democracy. *Political studies*, 47(1), 2-16.

Further reading:

Dornbusch, R., & Edwards, S. (1991). The macroeconomics of populism. In *The macroeconomics of populism in Latin America* (pp. 7-13). University of Chicago Press.



4. AUTHORITARIANISM

Doty, R. M., Peterson, B. E., & Winter, D. G. (1991). Threat and authoritarianism in the United States, 1978–1987. *Journal of personality and social psychology*, 61(4), 629.

Lipset, S. M. (1955). The radical right: A problem for American democracy. *The British Journal of Sociology*, 6(2), 176-209.

Further reading: Adorno, T. W., Frenkel-Brunswik, E., Levinson, D. J., & Sanford, R. N. (1950). The authoritarian personality.

Unit 2: Parts

5. THE LANGUAGE

Lakoff, George (2016) [Understanding Trump](#).

Caldwell, Wilber W.; American Narcissism: The Myth of National Superiority (Introduction)

Further reading: Kazin, M. (1998). *The populist persuasion: An American history*. Cornell University Press.

Fairclough, N. (2000). *New Labour, new language?* Psychology Press.

All the King's Men (2006) film

6. MASS MEDIA

Azari, J. R. (2016). "How the News Media Helped to Nominate Trump." *Political Communication* **33**(4): 677-680.

Buckels, E. E., et al. (2014). "Trolls just want to have fun." *Personality and Individual Differences* **67**: 97-102.

Further Reading:

Baumgartner, J. C. and J. S. Morris (2016). The Serious Business of Late-Night Political Humor: Foreign Policy Issue Salience in the 2014 Midterm Elections. *Communication and Midterm Elections*, Springer: 131-142.

Del Vicario, M., et al. (2015). "Echo chambers in the age of misinformation." [arXiv preprint arXiv:1509.00189](#).

7. THE BRAND



Chodorov, F. (1962). *Out of Step: The autobiography of an Individualist*. Devin-Adair Company (Chapter 9)

Marsh, D., & Fawcett, P. (2011). Branding, politics and democracy. *Policy Studies*, 32(5), 515-530.

Further reading: Leo Braudy (1986) *The Frenzy of Renown: Fame and Its History*.

Optional: Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism

Unit 3: Themes

8. GENDER

Ducat, Stephen (2016) *The Wimp Factor: Gender Gaps, Holy Wars, and the Politics of Anxious Masculinity* (Chapter 6)

Tickner, J. A. (2002). Feminist perspectives on 9/11. *International Studies Perspectives*, 3(4), 333-350.

Further reading: Sjoberg, L., & Gentry, C. E. (2007). *Mothers, Monsters, Whores: women's violence in global politics*. Zed Books.

Sperling, V. (2015). *Sex, Politics, and Putin: Political Legitimacy in Russia*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

9. RACE (thanks to Myron T. Strong, PhD)

Rosino, M. L., & Hughey, M. W. (2016). Who's invited to the (political) party: race and party politics in the USA. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 39(3), 325-332.

Golash-Boza, T. M. (2015). *Race & racisms: A critical approach*.

Further Reading: Fanon, F. (2008) [1952]. *Black skin, white masks*. Grove press.

David Jacobs and Daniel Tope (2008) Race, crime, and Republican strength: Minority politics in post civil rights era. *Social Science Research*, vol 37, issue 4, p 1116-1129

10. CONSPIRACY

Richard Hofstadter (1966) *The Paranoid Style in American Politics*. Vintage

Michael Barkun (2003) *Culture of Conspiracy: Apocalyptic Visions in Contemporary America* (Chapter 1&2)



Further reading: Eric Oliver, Thomas Wood (2014) Conspiracy Theories and the Paranoid Style(s) of Mass Opinion

11. CONSERVATISM

Robin, C. (2011). *The Reactionary Mind: Conservatism from Edmund Burke to Sarah Palin*. Oxford University Press (Introduction, Chapter 1)

Brown, J. A. (2016). Running on Fear: Immigration, Race and Crime Framings in Contemporary GOP Presidential Debate Discourse. *Critical Criminology*, 24(3), 315-331.

Further reading:

Kabaservice, Geoffrey (2011) Rule and Ruin: The Downfall of Moderation and the Destruction of the Republican Party, From Eisenhower to the Tea Party

Ann Coulter (2016) In Trump we trust. E Pluribus Awesome OR Adios America

12. ISOLATIONISM

Fensterwald Jr, B. (1958). The anatomy of American" isolationism" and expansionism. Part I. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 2(2), 111-139.

Braumoeller, B. F. (2010). The Myth of American Isolationism. *Foreign Policy Analysis*, 6(4), 349-371.

Further reading: Jonas, M. (1966). *Isolationism in America, 1935-1941*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

13. TBA!

14. CONCLUSION: LET'S BUILD A TRUMP

O'Leary, Rosemary. (2005). *The Ethics of Dissent: Managing Guerrilla Government*. Washington, DC: CQ Press.