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 gaulman@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


Further reading:


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

2. THE AMERICAN DREAM


3. POPULISM


Further reading:

4. AUTHORITARIANISM


Unit 2: Parts

5. THE LANGUAGE

Lakoff, George (2016) *Understanding Trump*.

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


All the King's Men (2006) film

6. MASS MEDIA


*Further Reading:*


7. THE BRAND


*Optional*: Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism

**Unit 3: Themes**

8. **GENDER**


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


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**


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

11. CONSERVATISM


Further reading:


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

12. ISOLATIONISM


13. TBA!

14. CONCLUSION: LET’S BUILD A TRUMP