Syllabus

Right-wing Populism and Democracy in Austria - 54600

Last update 11-10-2018

<u>*HU Credits:*</u> *2*

<u>*Degree/Cycle:*</u> *2nd degree (Master)*

<u>*Responsible Department:*</u> *European Studies*

<u>*Academic year:*</u> *0*

<u>*Semester:*</u> *1st Semester*

<u>*Teaching Languages:*</u> *English*

<u>*Campus:*</u> *Mt. Scopus*

<u>*Course/Module Coordinator:*</u> *Dr. Marion Loeffler*

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<u>*Coordinator Office Hours:*</u> *By prior arrangement*

<u>*Teaching Staff:*</u>
Dr. Marion Loeffler

Course/Module description:
  The rise of right-wing populist movements and parties in most European member states has made populism a major topic of political science research. Although scholars agree that populism relates to democracy, they disagree on its impact on liberal democracy and its institutions. Populism seems to be both, a normal feature of democratic life as well as a threat to democracy. The aim of this course is to discuss these contradictory findings taking Austria as an example. The Austrian Freedom Party (FP) was one of the first right-wing populist parties in Europe with some connections to far-right and neo-Nazi movements. In contrast to other right-wing populist parties, the FP participated in governments (1983-1986, 2000-2006, since 2017). Being in government is supposed to deprive populist parties of their radical rhetoric and anti-establishment attitude. On the other hand, they have the power to reconstruct the political system or harm democratic institutions. Moreover, since the beginning of the decade some populist strategies and issues (e.g. migration, Islam, gender equality) have been taken over by mainstream political parties and changed the political discourse in Austria and Europe.

Course/Module aims:
  The aim of the course is a critical examination of the impact of right-wing populism on representative democracy. Students will gain knowledge about the Austrian political system and current developments in the European context. They will practice and improve their skills in theory and methods based argumentation and scientific writing.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
  □ understand and distinguish different concepts of populism
□ know the democratic institutions of liberal, representative democracy and their relevance for a democratic society
□ assess recent developments in Austria and their impact on liberal democracy
□ criticize right-wing populist discursive strategies and policies
□ know and apply some language related social-science research methods

Attendance requirements(%):
  80%

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: After an introductory lecture, each session will deal with a different aspect of the topic. The discussions will be based on a text (a thematic or methodological article or book chapter) which forms part of the compulsory reading. Students will contact further research and will

present their (individual or collaborative) research and preliminary findings.

Course/Module Content:
*   - What is populism? (definitions, controversies)*
- Populism as a threat to democracy?
- Liberal democracy and the role of populist actors in Europe
- Austria□s political system and EU-Integration
- □Politics of the past□ □ Waldheim and Haider
- The Freedom Party (FP) as populist actor in opposition
- The FP in government 2000 and sanctions of EU member states
- From Haider to Strache
- Transformation of the topics of populist discourse (from anti-Semitism to anti-Islam propaganda, from German to Austrian nationalism)
- Recent developments in Austria
- Research methods: frame analysis of populist discourse; rhetorical strategies
- Political masculinities and populism
- Mainstreaming right-wing populism

Required Reading:
Mller, Jan-Werner (2016). What is Populism? (selected chapters)
Pelinka, Anton (2013). Right-Wing Populism: Concept and Typology, in: Ruth Wodak/Majid KhosravniNik/Brigitte Mral (eds.): Right-Wing Populism in Europe. Politics and Discourse, London et al., pp. 3-22.
Martins, Estevтo C. de Rezende (2017). Democracy and the Thread of Populism, in: Estudos do Sʹculo XX (Coimbra), 17, pp, 91-111.
Albertazzi, Daniele/McDonnel, Duncan (2008). Conclusion: Populism and Twenty-First Century Western European Democracy, in: Albertazzi, Daniele/McDonnell, Duncan (eds.). Twenty-First Century Populism: The Spectre of Western European Democracy, Houndsmills [et al.], pp. 217-223.
Heinisch, Reinhard (2003). Success in opposition □ failure in government: explaining the performance of right-wing populist parties in public office, in: West European Politics, 26, 91-130.
Fallend, Franz/Heinisch, Reinhard (2016). Collaboration as successful strategy against right-wing populism? The case of the centre-right coalition in Austria, 2000□2007, in: Democratization, 23, 324-344.
Stockemer, Daniel/Lamontagne, Bernadette (2014). Pushed to the Edge: Sub-National Variations in Extreme Right-Wing Support in Austria, in: Journal of Contemporary European Studies, 22, 39-56.
Ajanovic, Edma/Mayer, Stefanie/Sauer, Birgit (2015). Natural Enemies: Articulations of Racism in Right-Wing Populism in Austria, in: asopis za Kritiko Znanosti, vol. 43 (260), pp. 203-214.
Bossetta, Michael (2017). Fighting fire with fire: Mainstream adoption of the populist political style in the 2014 Europe debates between Nick Clegg and Nigel Farage, in:

The British Journal of Politics and International Relations, 19, pp. 715-734.
Mattes, Astrid (2018). How religion came into play: ⬚Muslim⬚ as a category of practice in immigrant integration debates, in: Religion, State and Society, 46, pp. 186-205.
Wodak, Ruth/Forchtner, Bernhard (2014). Embattled Vienna 1683/2010: right-wing populism, collective memory and the fictionalisation of politics, in: Visual Communication, 13, pp. 231-255.
Engel, Jakob/Wodak, Ruth (2013). "Calculated Ambivalence" and Holocaust Denial in Austria, in: Ruth Wodak/John E. Richardson (Hg.): Analysing fascist discourse: European Fascism in Talk and Text, New York & London, 73-96.
Hafez, Farid (2017). Debating the 2015 Islam law in Austrian Parliament: Between legal recognition and Islamophobic populism, in: Discourse & Society, 28, pp. 392-412.
Rheindorf, Markus/Wodak, Ruth (2018). Borders, Fences, and Limits⬚Protecting Austria From Refugees: Metadiscursive Negotiation of Meaning in the Current Refugee Crisis, in: Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies, 16, pp. 15-38.
Gavenda, Mario/Umit, Resul (2016). The 2016 Austrian Presidential Election: A Tale of Three Divides, in: Regional & Federal Studies, 26, pp. 419-432.

 Additional Reading Material:
  further individual research

 Course/Module evaluation:
  End of year written/oral examination 0 %
  Presentation 30 %
  Participation in Tutorials 0 %
  Project work 50 %
  Assignments 20 %
  Reports 0 %
  Research project 0 %
  Quizzes 0 %
  Other 0 %

Additional information: