

ECTS Syllabus

Course Title	Contemporary Far Right				
Course Code	PGT-401				
Course Type	Core				
Level	1 st Cycle				
Year / Semester	3 rd / Spring				
Teacher's Name	Dr. Yiannos Katsourides				
ECTS	6	Lectures / week	1 or 2 (3 hours per week)	Laboratories / week	N/A
Course Purpose and Objectives	The course explores the rise, evolution, and impact of far-right movements, parties, and ideologies in the modern world. It examines the historical roots of far-right politics, its ideological foundations, and its adaptation to contemporary social, economic, and political contexts. The course engages with key themes such as nationalism, populism, authoritarianism, racism, and the role of digital media in far-right mobilization. Through case studies from Europe, the Americas, and beyond, students will analyze the far right's influence on democracy, governance, and political discourse. The main objectives of the course include: • Understanding the historical development and ideological foundations of the contemporary far right. • Clarifying the content of concepts that are central to the study of the far right, such as terminology (e.g., extreme, radical, populist and extremist right, neo-fascist and post-fascist far right, etc.), characteristics and properties of the far/radical right (e.g., anti-systemeness, populism), the concept of the protest collector, etc. • Analyzing the political, economic, and social factors driving far-right movements and parties. • Examining the relationship between far-right politics, democracy, and authoritarianism. • Studying the electoral sociology of the far-right vote, the repertoire of political action it uses and how it is positioned against political violence, its perception of historical memory, etc. • Evaluating the role of media, digital platforms, and transnational networks in far-right mobilization. • Developing critical perspectives on policy responses and strategies for countering far-right extremism.				
Learning Outcomes	After completion of the course students are expected to be able to: 1. Demonstrate knowledge of key concepts, theories, and debates on the contemporary far right. 2. Critically analyze the historical evolution and ideological components of far-right movements.				

	- Evaluate the impact of far-right politics on democratic institutions, civil rights, and governance. - Discuss the role of economic crises, globalization, and migration in shaping far-right mobilization. - Apply theoretical frameworks to assess far-right strategies, rhetoric, and policy proposals. - Comprehend the basic concepts, tools and research fields of the far-right phenomenon - Understand the diversity of the phenomenon's occurrence in different countries and historical periods - Appreciate the dynamism and potential variability of the far-right/right radical phenomenon - Develop reasoned arguments on the challenges posed by far-right politics to liberal democracy. - Communicate insights effectively through written and oral analyses of far-right movements and policies.		
Prerequisites	None	Required	None
Course Content	- Introduction to the topic: Why it is important to study the radical/far right. - Definitional issues and variations of the far/right radical phenomenon. - The far right in historical perspective (before World War II): its relation to anti-Enlightenment and the totalitarian ideologies of the 1930s (Nazism, fascism). - The four 'waves' of the far right in the post-war world: characteristics and main representatives - Theories of the emergence of the far right (demand and supply factors). - Is the far right a pathology of political systems or a pathological normality of our societies? - The electoral sociology of the far right: who votes for the far right and why. - Revisionism as an important element in the re-emergence and acceptance of the extreme/radical right in contemporary political systems. - Political violence and the far right. - The political discourse of the far right and the political style of its leaders: alignment with 'political demand' and adaptation to media logic? - The far right in the digital world		
Teaching Methodology	Lectures, Discussions, Assignments, Debates, videos, guest lectures.		
Bibliography	- Albanese Matteo (2024), <i>Neofascism in Europe (1945–1989): A Long Cultural Journey</i>, Routledge. - Bernhard Laurent, Betz Hans-Georg and Biard Benjamin (2019), <i>Do They Make a Difference?: The Policy Influence of Radical Right Populist Parties in Western Europe</i>, ECPR Studies in European Political Science, Routledge.		

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- Betz, H. G. (1993b) 'The two faces of radical right-wing populism in Western Europe', *Review of Politics*, vol. 55, no. 4, pp. 663–685.
- Betz Hans-Georg (1994), *Radical right-wing populism in Western Europe*. Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan.
- Betz Hans-Georg, Stefan Immerfall (eds.) (1998), *The new politics of the right. Neo-populist parties and movements in established democracies*. Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan.
- Bosi Lorenzo, Ó Dochartaigh Niall and Pisoiu Daniela (2015), *Political Violence in Context: Time, Space and Milieu*, ECPR Studies in European Political Science, Routledge.
- Bosworth R. J. B. (2009) (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Fascism*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Bracke Sarah and Aguilar Luis Manuel Hernández (Eds) (2023), *The Politics of Replacement: Demographic Fears, Conspiracy Theories, and Race Wars*, Routledge.
- Carter, E. (2005). *The Extreme Right in Western Europe*, Manchester University Press, Manchester.
- Ellinas Antonis (2010), *The media and the far right in Western Europe: Playing the nationalist card*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
- Gattinara Pietro Castelli and Pirro Andrea L. P. (2024). *Movement parties of the far right: understanding nativist mobilization*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Goodwin, M. (2011) *Right Response. Understanding and Countering Populist Extremism in Europe*, Chatham House, London.
- Ignazi Piero (2003), *Extreme Right Parties in Western Europe*, New York: Oxford University Press.
- Jackman, R. & Volpert, K. (1996) 'Conditions favouring parties of the extreme right in Western Europe', *British Journal of Political Science*, vol. 26, no. 4, pp. 501–521.
- Karapın, R. (1998) 'Radical-right and neo-fascist political parties in Western Europe', *Comparative Politics*, vol. 30, no. 2, pp. 213–234.
- Kitschelt Herbert, Anthony J. McGann (1995), *The radical right in Western Europe. A comparative analysis*. Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press.
- Lok Matthijs, Brolsma Marjet, de Bruin Robin, Couperus Stefan and Rachel McElroy White (Eds), (2025), *Antiliberal Internationalism in the Twentieth Century. Beyond Left and Right?*, Routledge.
- Maly Iko (2023), *Metapolitics, Algorithms and Violence: New Right Activism and Terrorism in the Attention Economy*, Routledge.
- McAdams James and Piccolo Samuel (Eds) (2024), *Far-Right Newspeak and the Future of Liberal Democracy*, Routledge.

	▪ Mény Yve and Ynes Surel (eds.), <i>Democracies and the populist challenge</i>. Palgrave, 2002. ▪ Mudde Cas (2017) (eds.), <i>The Populist Radical Right. A Reader</i>, Abingdon: Routledge. ▪ Mudde Cas (2007), <i>Populist radical right parties in Europe</i>, Cambridge University Press. ▪ Mudde, C. (2020), 'Riding the fourth wave'. <i>IPPR Progressive Review</i>, 26: 296-304. ▪ Mudde Cas (2020), <i>The Far Right Today</i>, Cambridge: Polity Press. ▪ Mudde Cas (2000), <i>The Ideology of the extreme right</i>, Manchester: Manchester University Press. ▪ Norris Pippa (2005), <i>Radical Right. Voters and parties in the electoral market</i>, Cambridge University Press. ▪ Pinheiro-Machado Rosana and Vargas-Maia Tatiana (Eds) (2023), <i>The Rise of the Radical Right in the Global South</i>, Routledge. ▪ Sondel-Cedarmas Joanna and Berti Francesco (Eds) (2023), <i>The Right-Wing Critique of Europe: Nationalist, Sovereignist and Right-Wing Populist Attitudes to the EU</i>, Routledge. ▪ Taggart Paul (2000), <i>Populism</i>, Open University Press, Buckingham-Philadelphia. ▪ Vasilopoulou Sofia (2017), <i>Far Right Parties and Euroscepticism: Patterns of Opposition</i>, ECPR Studies in European Political Science, Routledge. ▪ Wolinetz Steven and Andrej Zaslove (2016), <i>Absorbing the Blow: Populist Parties and their Impact on Parties and Party Systems</i>, ECPR Studies in European Political Science, Routledge. ▪ Zúquete José Pedro and Marchi Riccardo (2023), <i>Global Identitarianism</i>, Routledge.
Assessment	Assignment(s), midterm exam, final exam, participation, response to papers, presentations, quizzes
Language	English