

Populisms

Monday 4.05-7.05 pm

Grinter Hall 376

Carlos de la Torre

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Office hours by appointment

Course description

This seminar explores the genealogy of the concept of populism and the theoretical debates on what it is and how to study it. We will compare historical and current experiences in Latin America, the U.S., and Europe focusing on the relationships between populism, democratization, and authoritarianism.

Course Requirements and Grading Components

Participation 20%

First exam on class readings 30%

Final paper 50%

For the final paper you must talk to me to select a case study. You will use the theories and concepts that we learned in class and compare your case with experiences that we discussed in the course. Graduate students are expected to write a 15 pages paper, and undergraduates about 10.

Participation

Students are expected to attend class, complete the weekly reading assignments prior to each meeting, to participate actively in class discussions and exercises, and to attend the 72 annual conference Feb 29-March 1 2024).

Grading Scale

A 94-100

A- 90-93

B+ 87-89

B 84-86

B- 80-83

C+ 77-79

C 74-76

C- 70-73

D+ 67-69

D 64-66

D- 60-63

E- E below 60

F-

Class Policies Attendance

This is a graduate seminar that meets once a week; students are expected to attend all class meetings and be prepared to discuss the assigned readings each week.

Disruptions

Class participants should make every effort to avoid behavior that may disrupt class proceedings, such as chronic tardiness or early departures, or the eruptions of mobile phones. The use of laptops or tablets in class for non-class-related purposes is frowned upon.

Late Assignments

Late assignments will be accepted pending a satisfactory explanation (documentation may be requested) but will incur the following penalties: ½ letter grade if submitted within 24 hours after the deadline; one letter grade if submitted within a week of the deadline; two letter grades if submitted more than one week after the deadline.

Emergencies

Students should inform the instructor of emergencies or events that may affect their participation in this class as soon as possible. The instructor will work with students to make up any missed assignments due to events or circumstances beyond their control. Appropriate documentation may be requested.

Students with Disabilities

Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with disabilities. Students with disabilities should register with the Disability Resource Center of the Dean of Students office, who will work with you and the instructor to make appropriate arrangements. Contact the Disability Resource Center at 352-392-8565, at accessuf@dso.ufl.edu or go by their office in 0020 Reid Hall.

Academic Honesty UF Students are expected to abide by the Student Conduct Code, which may be found at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/studentguide/studentconductcode.php> Students should not receive unauthorized assistance in completing their assignments and should refrain from plagiarism (intellectual theft that represents the work of others as one's own). Students should not submit the same paper for more than one class. Violations will be handled accordingly.

Recommended short introductions

Manuel Anselmi. 2018. *Populism. An Introduction*. New York: Routledge.

Carlos de la Torre. 2020. *Populisms: A Quick Immersion*. New York: Tibidabo Publishing.

Benjamin Moffit. 2020. *Populism*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Cas Mudde and Cristóbal Rovira Kaltwasser. 2017. *Populism. A Very Short Introduction*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Schedule of Topics and readings

All the readings are in Canvas

January 8

Introduction to the class

January 22

I) Waves

Felipe Burbano, "Populist waves in Latin America" in Carlos de la Torre ed., *The Routledge Handbook of Populism*, London: Routledge, 2019.

Carlos de la Torre, "Messianic and Autocratic Populisms' Waves in the Recent History of the Americas: Continuities, Twists, and Rupture", in A. Akande, ed., *U.S. Democracy in Danger*, Vancouver, Springer, 359-381.

2) Concepts and theories

January 29

Political-strategic concepts

Readings: Weyland, Kurt. 2001. "Clarifying a Contested Concept." *Comparative Politics* 34 (1), 1–22.

———. 2017. "Populism: A Political Strategic Approach" in Cristóbal Rovira Kaltwasser, Paul Taggart, Paulina Ochoa Espejo, and Pierre Ostiguy, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Populism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 48–73."

February 5

The Ideational perspective

Readings: "Mudde, Cas. 2004. "The Populist Zeitgeist." *Government and Opposition* 39 (4), 541–563."

Kirk Hawkins and Cristóbal Rovira, "The ideational approach to populism"

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/latin-american-research-review/article/ideational-approach-to-populism/C57445C5C3F96F596C36D0565806E3CA>

February 12

Performative approach

Ostiguy, Pierre. 2022. "The Voice and Message of Hugo Chávez in Christian Kock and Lisa Villadsen, eds., *Populist Rhetorics*, New York: Palgrave.

February 19

Laclau's theory

Ernesto Laclau Populism what's in a name

Enrique Peruzzotti, "Laclau's political theory of populism", in Carlos de la Torre ed., *The Routledge Handbook of Populism*, London: Routledge, 2019.

February 26

Fascism and populism

Gino Germani, "Mass Society, Social Class, and the Emergence of Fascism" *Studies in Comparative International Development*.

Federico Finchelstein. 2024. *The Wannabe Fascists*, University of California Press

Carlos de la Torre. 2022. "Fascism and Populism" in M Oswald ed., *The Palgrave Handbook of Populism*

March 4

Populism: gender, class, and leadership

Paula Diehl. 2023. "Gender contradictions in the democratic imaginary: The populist response" in Carlos de la Torre and Oscar Mazzoleni eds., *Populism and Key Concepts in Social and Political Theory*, **Leiden**: Brill

Kenneth Roberts. 2023. "Populism and social class: Constituting the People and Cleaving the Political Field" in Carlos de la Torre and Oscar Mazzoleni eds., *Populism and Key Concepts in Social and Political Theory*, **Leiden**: Brill

Carlos de la Torre "Populist leadership" in Carlos de la Torre and Oscar Mazzoleni eds., *Populism and Key Concepts in Social and Political Theory*, Brill

March 18

First paper due

3) Cases and comparisons

March 25

Peronism

Maryssa Navarro, "The case of Eva Perón" *Signs* 3 (1) 1977, 229-240

Natalia Milanesio, 2014. "A man like you: Juan Domingo Perón and the Politics of Attraction in Mid-Twentieth-Century Argentina, *Gender and History* **26 (1)**

April 1

Chavism

José Zuquete. 2008. "The missionary politics of Hugo Chávez". *Latin American Politics and Society*, Vol. 50, No. 1 (Spring, 2008), pp. 91-121

Margarita López Maya, “Leftwing populism in power. The Venezuelan Experience in Michael Bernhard, Carlos de la Torre and Amie Krepel, ed., *Still the Age of Populism?*

April 8

Bolsonarism

Santos, Gustavo Gomes da Costa. 2021. “Anti-gender politics and the authoritarian turn in Brazil” *Brasiliana Journal of Brazilian Studies* 10 (1), 96-124.

Snyder, Cara. 2023. “Exposing Fascism: The Rise of Bolsonarismo and the Naked Politics of Brazil’s First Trans Men’s Football Team”, *Latin American Research Review* 58, 519-538
doi:[10.1017/lar.2023.24](https://doi.org/10.1017/lar.2023.24)

Fiori, Juliano and Pedro Fiori Arantes. 2023. “Brazil’s Cultural Battleground. Public Universities and the New Right”, *Latin American Perspectives* 50 (1), 197-217.

April 15

Trumpism

Riley, Dylan. 2018. “What Is Trump?” *The New Left Review* 114, November–December, 5–31.”

Gorski, Philip. 2017. “Why Evangelicals Voted for Trump.” *American Journal of Cultural Sociology* 5, 338–354.

Joseph Lowndes, “Populism and race in the United States”, in Carlos de la Torre ed., *The Routledge Handbook of Populism*, chapter 12,

Alan West-Durán, “Neo-Liberal Populism and Democracy Under Siege: Some Thoughts on Trump(ism)” in A. Akande, ed., *U.S. Democracy in Danger*, Vancouver, Springer, 461-485.