

Syllabus

for course at advanced level

Populism and Democratic Politics
Populism och demokrati

**7.5 Higher Education
Credits**
7.5 ECTS credits

Course code:	SV7079
Valid from:	Autumn 2020
Date of approval:	2020-06-09
Department	Department of Political Science
Main field:	Political Science
Specialisation:	A1N - Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Decision

This syllabus has been approved by the Board of the Department of Political Science, Stockholm University, 2020-06-09.

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

A Bachelor of Arts Degree (180 ECTS credit points or the equivalent), with a major in political science (minimum 90 ECTS credits) as well as English 6

Course structure

Examination code	Name	Higher Education Credits
7079	Populism and Democratic Politics	7.5

Course content

Populist movements and political parties are redefining the political landscape across the world, in Europe and Europe as well as Latin America and beyond. In this course an in-depth engagement with populism as a political phenomenon is offered. First, the course engages with competing perspectives on what populism is and how it should be studied. Is it an ideology, a strategy to engender political power or perhaps a particular style of communicating? Secondly, the course offers an engagement with the question of populism's relationship with democracy: does populism represent an anti-democratic threat or can populism reinvigorate stale democratic institutions and work to include previously marginalized social groups? Third, the course exposes students to debates regarding what explains populism's emergence in societies across Europe and the Americas. Is increasing support for populist explained primarily by economic factors, the structure of political systems or specific attitudes and ideas among voters? Finally, the response to populism's emergence is studied focusing on dynamics of inclusion and exclusion of populist parties and their ideas. The course thus offers both a theoretical and empirical basis for understanding populism as a contemporary political phenomenon, drawing on theoretical and empirical debates on in political science and democratic theory.

Learning outcomes

To pass the course students should demonstrate

- In-depth familiarity with the state-of-the-art research on contemporary populism. -An ability to recognize and argue for different approaches to the study of populism.
- An ability to recognize and argue for different ways in understanding populism's relation to democratic politics. An in depth understanding of how theories regarding populism relate to discussions in democratic theory.

- An in-depth understanding of mechanisms and drivers of the emergence of populist parties in consolidated democracies.
- An in-depth understanding of the varied political responses to the emergence of populism.

Education

The course is based on seminars and lectures and seminars. The seminars are compulsory. Absence requires submission of compensatory assignments. More information about these assignments are provided by the teacher at the start of the course. The language of instruction is English.

Forms of examination

a. The course is examined by a take-home examination.

The course is examined in English.

b. Grades will be set according to a seven point scale related to the learning objectives of the course:

A = Excellent

B = Very good

C = Good

D = Satisfactory

E = Adequate

Fx = Inadequate, some more work is required

F = Totally inadequate, a lot more work is required

c. Students will be informed of the written grading criteria as of course start.

d. In order to pass the course, students must receive a grade of E or higher on all examinations, complete all mandatory assignments and meet the attendance requirement.

e. At least two examination opportunities will be offered for each course. Students who receive the grade Fx or F twice by the same examiner are entitled to have another examiner appointed for the next examination, unless there are special reasons to the contrary. Such requests should be made to the Director of Studies. Students who receive the grade E or higher may not retake the examination to attain a higher grade.

f. The completion of a supplementary assignment in order to convert the grade Fx into a passing grade on course modules examined on the basis of a take-home exam may be permitted if the student is close to meeting the criteria for a passing grade. The assignment should be submitted within a week of the examiner notifying the student of the need to complete a supplementary assignment. Adequate corrections of flaws related to understanding – minor misunderstandings, minor inaccuracies or too limited arguments – will receive the grade E. Adequate corrections of simple mistakes related to formatting will be graded using the grades A-E.

Interim

When this course is no longer offered or when its content has been significantly modified, the student has the right to be examined according to this syllabus once each semester during a period of three semesters.

Limitations

This course may not be included in a degree together with a course, taken in Sweden or elsewhere, of identical or partially similar content.

Required reading

The literature list will be posted on <http://www.statsvet.su.se/english/education/courses-andprogrammes/second-level>.

The literature list will be available at least two months before the course starts.