

Topics in Far-Right Politics | POU44403

Year	Senior Sophister
ECTS Credits	5
Contact Hours	1.5 hour seminar weekly
Pre-requisite	Nil
Semester	1
Module Leader & Lecturer	Dr Matthias Dilling
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Module Outline

Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this module students should be able to:

- Explain and critically examine concepts in the study of far-right politics,
- Compare and contrast demand-side, institutional, and supply-side explanations for the success of far-right parties and their effects on political and social outcomes,
- Examine and appraise the evidence and the research designs used to generate that evidence in favor and against those explanations, and
- Design and implement their own research project on topics relating to far-right parties.

Module Learning Aims:

This module covers concepts, arguments, and evidence surrounding the causes and effects of the rise of far-right political parties. It aims to equip students with the knowledge and skills to critically examine research designs and empirical evidence to conduct their own research into the varying success of the far right.

Module Content:

Democracies around the world have seen a surge in support for far-right political parties and candidates. What characterizes far-right parties? What explains their success? What effects have they had on other parties, social norms, and other political outcomes? This module engages with these and other questions in the study of far-right politics, with a particular focus on the empirical analysis of party politics and elections in Europe.

The module unfolds in three parts. Part I will clarify the conceptual ground, defining key terms and tracing historical developments. Part II will examine potential demand- and supply-side causes of far-right parties' success, paying particular attention to research methodology and empirical evidence. Part III will extend this empirical focus to examining the effects of far-right success, engaging with questions around institutional incorporation and mainstreaming and what these processes mean for party politics, public policy, and liberal democracy.

Assessment

Response paper (10%)

Recorded research presentation (25%)

Research paper (65%)

Recommended Reading List

- Bustikova, Lenka (2019) *Extreme Reactions. Radical Right Mobilization in Eastern Europe*. Cambridge University Press.
- Cramer, Katherine (2016) *The Politics of Resentment. Rural Consciousness in Wisconsin and the Rise of Scott Walker*. University of Chicago Press.
- Rydgren, Jens (2018) *The Oxford Handbook of the Radical Right*. Oxford University Press.
- Weyland, Kurt (2024) *Democracy's Resilience to Populism's Threat*. Cambridge University Press.