**THE POLITICAL THEORY OF POPULISM AND DEMOCRACY**

Lecturer: **Attila ANTAL, Dr. jur., PhD** senior lecturer (Institute of Political Science- ELTE)

E-mail: antal.attila@ajk.elte.hu

Web: <http://www.antalattila.hu>

Availability: Tuesdays 14.00-15.00, Egyetem sqr. 1-3. III/328.

**Brief introduction**

The rising phenomenon of populism has reconceptualized the political theory and praxis in the Western and Eastern hemispheres. This course aims to understand the political theoretical and historical assumptions of populism. First, the populism is theorized here as a historical phenomenon and the populism of our time is analysed as neo-populism. One of the main concerns of current populist Zeitgeist is that it’s origins based on the crisis of neoliberalism and liberal democracy. The successful right-wing populism and the transnational left-wing populism will be investigated here as the two main tendencies of populism. The main field of research will be the controversial relationship between democracy and populism. Moreover, analysing the impact of populism on the hybridity of political regimes will play a crucial role to understand neo-populism. The course is based on political and critical theoretical literature of populism and democracy.

**Course outline**

1. Introduction

2. The political history of populism

3. What does populism mean?

4. Neo-populism and the factors behind contemporary populism

5. Democracy and populism 1

6. Democracy and populism 2

7. Right-wing populism

8. Left-wing populism

9. Populism and media

10. Populism, policy and modern state

11. Fragile of democracy, hybrid regimes and populism

12. Presentations

13. Summarizing the semester

**Literature**

Antal, Attila (2017): The Political Theories, Preconditions and Dangers of the Governing Populism in Hungary. Czech Journal of Political Science, 1/2017. 5–20.

Canovan, Margaret (1981): Populism. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich

Canovan, Margaret (1999): Trust the People! Populism and the Two Faces of Democracy. Political Studies, 47 (1), 2–16.

Hardt, Michael – Negri, Antonio (2001): Empire. Harvard University Press

Hardt, Michael – Negri, Antonio (2005): Multitude: War and Democracy in the Age of Empire. Penguin Books

Judis, B. John (2016): The Populist Explosion: How the Great Recession Transformed American and European Politics. New York: Columbia Global Reprt

Kazin, Michael (1995): The Populist Persuasion: An American History. Ithaca and London: Cornell Universit Press

Kessel, Stijn van (2015): Populist Parties in Europe. Agents of Disconten? Palgrave Macmillan

Laclau, Ernesto (2005a): Populism: What's in a Name? In: Panizza, Franscisco (ed.) (2005): Populism and the Mirror of Democracy, London: Verso.

Laclau, Ernesto (2005b): On populist reason. London: Verso.

Laclau, Ernesto – Mouffe, Chantal (1985): Hegemony and Socialist Strategy. Towards a Radical Democratic Politics. London: Verso.

Mouffe, Chantal (2005): On the Political. London – New York: Routledge

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

Mudde, Cas (2007): Populist Radical Right Parties in Europe. Cambridge University Press.

**Assessment**

Regular attendance (students are allowed to skip two classes in the semester).

One essay to be written and submitted before the last session (1 500 and 2 500 words)

Holding presentation alone or as a member of a small group