

IAFS 3000-001

World Politics and Extremism

Contact Information

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Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 12:30pm -2pm (or by appt). Virtual upon request

Course Information

January 9 to April 24

Classroom: HLMS E1B60

Class-time: MWF 2:30 to 3:20pm

Course Description: Throughout the developed world, extremism is taking hold in unprecedented ways not seen since the early 1900s. Far right movements are gaining strength and importance throughout Europe and the United States. Illiberal actors have begun destabilizing democracies around the world. These trends have raised several alarms about the rise of extremism over the last several decades and the seeming normalization of extremism and political violence. Throughout this course, we are going to analyze the rise of extremist politics throughout much of the world, but particularly the advanced industrial democracies of Europe and the United States. We will explore the development of these movements since World War II as they went from fringe, stigmatized actors, to insurgent political entrepreneurs, to mainstays of present-day politics. What is the radical right and left? What do they champion? Why do people support them, and why has that support increased? How normalized are these movements today and where does that normalization come from? By the end of the course, students will be better able to appreciate these movements, understand their consequences, and think through how to combat rising extremism.

Course Requirements and Grading:

Participation	10%
Weekly Quizzes	10%
Party Essay	15%
Research Paper	25%
Exams (2)	40%

Letter grades will be assigned at the end of the semester based on the following scale. I will **not** round your grade, and grades will not be curved.

		B+	87-89%	C+	77-79%	D+	67-69%
A	94-100%	B	84-86%	C	74-76%	D	64-66%
A-	90-93%	B-	80-83%	C-	70-73%	D-	60-63%

Attendance and Participation (10%)

Active participation in this course is critical! Coming to class well prepared and offering comments and questions in discussions or otherwise fostering an engaging and enriching learning environment in class, will result in a superior participation grade. This class will be taught in person with all students attending each scheduled class. Students may be dropped from the course for non-attendance. In lieu of tracking excused and un-excused absences, each student gets **three PTO days** which cover both excused and un-excused absences. Use these carefully throughout the course of the semester.

Each subsequent absence will result in a decrease in the participation and attendance grade of 5%. If you have ten total absences, you will receive a 0% for this category. Twelve or more absences will

result in an “F” in the course. If something comes up that prevents you from attending class regularly, or you have university approved exemptions to this policy, then please e-mail me as soon as possible. Otherwise, **please do not e-mail me for each absence**. Attendance alone is not sufficient to receive full credit. Students with perfect attendance but no participation in class should expect to receive a 60% on the participation and attendance grade.

Weekly Quizzes (10%)

Each week, there will be a quiz on that week’s readings and lecture which makeup 10% of the overall course grade. There will be **thirteen** quizzes in total, and the two lowest scores will be dropped. Quizzes are open-note, students get two attempts, and the highest score is kept. Quizzes will be published on Canvas at the end of class on Friday and students will have until before class on Monday to complete each quiz.

Party Essay (15%)

Students are expected to write a 1500-2000 word paper on an extremist party of their choosing. Students can pick any contemporary far-right or far-left party in the world, except those from the United States, and write about the history and origins of the party, the social movements it represents, and the explanations for its current position in society and politics. More information will be available on Canvas. Papers are due on **Friday, March 13th at 11:59pm**.

Research Papers (25%)

Students are also expected to write one 2500-3000-word paper on a research question of their choice related to course topics. Students will be expected to identify an interesting research question and consult relevant course materials, research, and data to develop an argument that answers their question. Papers are due on **Friday, April 22nd at 11:59pm**.

Exams (40%)

There will be two exams during this course: one midterm and one final. These exams are in-person, and you should get blue books from the CU Bookstore. Exams will consist of some combination of short answer and an essay question. Each exam is worth at least 15% of your course grade, with the highest score being weighted at 25%. Exams are not cumulative.

- Midterm: **Wednesday, February 25th (In-Class)**
- Final: **Wednesday, May 1st (1:30-4pm)**.

Late/Makeup Assignment Policy

All assignments must be submitted by their specified due date as designated in the syllabus. Late assignments will suffer a 10 percent penalty for each day that they are late and will not be accepted after three days unless discussed in advance of the deadline. In general, there will be no make-up exams or extensions without a university approved excused absence. However, if you find yourself in a situation where you cannot complete the work on time, please communicate with me as soon as possible before the deadline or day of the exam.

Canvas & Email Policy

I will primarily communicate with you via Canvas Announcements. Please ensure Canvas notifications are enabled, and announcements go to your inbox. **Please do not use Canvas to send me a message.**

E-mail is the best way to get in touch with me. When communicating with me, emails must have IAFS3000, Extremism, WPE, or a logical alternative indicating the email pertains to this course. Emails to me must be sent from your official University of Colorado email address. It is class policy that grades will not be discussed over email. I will generally reply to e-mails within 24 hours.

Artificial Intelligence

Generative artificial intelligence tools—software that creates new text, images, computer code, audio, video, and other content—have become widely available and pose new threats to academic integrity. **You may not use generative AI tools on assignments in this course.** Generative AI tools are typically trained on limited and pre-existing datasets that may be out of date and are designed to produce content that *appears* to be written by a human. As a result, work produced using generative AI is considered plagiarism and will often produce potentially outdated and inaccurate work that is not your own. If you use generative AI tools to complete assignments in this course, in ways that I have not explicitly authorized, this will be considered a violation of the Honor Code and there will be consequences appropriate to your specific case. These include getting a zero on the assignment, and possibly failing the class. Please act with integrity, for the sake of both your personal character and your academic record.

Please be **extremely careful** if you use tools like Grammarly or other generative AI for proofreading. This can and will rewrite your text and is considered a violation per the policy stated above if it does so. Use Spellcheck or other non-AI proofreading tools. If you aren't sure if you are using AI, err on the side of caution and don't use it.

Course Materials

There is no required textbook for this course. All readings will be made available on Canvas. Assigned readings and deadlines are subject to change, but you will be notified in advance.

Schedule

Week 0: Course Introduction and Syllabus

Friday, January 9: Course Introduction & Syllabus

- No Reading

Week 1: What is Populism?

Monday, January 12: *Populism in Europe*

- Mudde, Cas. 2007. *Populist Radical Right Parties in Europe*. 1st ed. Cambridge University Press.
Chapter One

Wednesday, January 14: *The Radical Right Today*

- Lenik, Paulina. 2025. "Cut from the Same Cloth? Identifying a Difference between Populist Parties in CEE and Western Europe." *East European Politics* 41(1): 46–68.

Friday, January 16: *Populism in Latin America*

- Grigera, Juan. 2017. "Populism in Latin America: Old and New Populisms in Argentina and Brazil." *International Political Science Review* 38(4): 441–55.

Week 2: The Stigmatization of the Radical Right

Monday, January 19: No Class (Martin Luther King Jr Day)

Wednesday, January 21: Stigmatizing the Right

- Art, David. 2007. "Reacting to the Radical Right: Lessons from Germany and Austria." *Party Politics* 13(3): 331–49.

Friday, January 23: Pariah Parties

- Van Spanje, Joost, and Wouter Van Der Brug. 2007. "The Party as Pariah: The Exclusion of Anti-Immigration Parties and Its Effect on Their Ideological Positions." *West European Politics* 30(5): 1022–40.

Week 3: Survival of Radical Right Parties

Monday, January 26: The Rebirth

- Eatwell, R. 2000. "The Rebirth of the 'extreme Right' in Western Europe?" *Parliamentary Affairs* 53(3): 407–25.
- Goldstein, Ariel Alejandro. 2019. "The New Far-Right in Brazil and the Construction of a Right-Wing Order." *Latin American Perspectives* 46(4): 245–62.

Wednesday, January 28: Niche Parties

- Wagner, Markus, and Thomas M Meyer. 2017. "The Radical Right as Niche Parties? The Ideological Landscape of Party Systems in Western Europe, 1980–2014." *Political Studies* 65(1_suppl): 84–107.

Friday, January 30: Still Niche?

- No Reading

Week 4: Economic Insecurity and Globalization

Monday, February 2: Economic Insecurity

- Stoetzer, Lukas, Johannes Giesecke, and Heike Klüver. 2025. "Perceived Inequality and Populism." *European Journal of Political Research*.

Wednesday, February 4: Globalization

- Colantone, Italo, and Piero Stanig. 2018. "The Trade Origins of Economic Nationalism: Import Competition and Voting Behavior in Western Europe." *American Journal of Political Science* 62(4):936–53.

Friday, February 6: Automation & Technological Change

- Milner, Helen V. 2021. "Voting for Populism in Europe: Globalization, Technological Change, and the Extreme Right." *Comparative Political Studies* 54(13):2286–2320.

Week 5: Cultural Backlash

Monday, February 9: Immigration

- Ivarsflaten, Elisabeth. 2008. "What Unites Right-Wing Populists in Western Europe?: Re-Examining Grievance Mobilization Models in Seven Successful Cases." *Comparative Political Studies* 41(1):3–23.

Wednesday, February 11: Cultural Backlash

- Norris, Pippa, and Ronald Inglehart. 2019. *Cultural Backlash: Trump, Brexit, and Authoritarian Populism*. Cambridge University Press. **Chapter 2**

Friday, February 13: Historical Legacies

- Neundorff, Anja, and Sergi Pardos-Prado. 2025. "Historical Memory and Radical Right Voting: Vox and the Legacy of Francoism." *The Journal of Politics*

Week 6: Institutional Failures

Monday, February 16: Crisis of Mainstream Parties

- Spoon, Jac-Jae and Heike Klüver. Dec 3. 2019. "What Explains Mainstream Party Decline across Europe?" <https://www.democraticaudit.com/2019/03/12/what-explains-mainstream-party-decline-across-europe/>
- Broder, David. 2025. "They Were Supposed to Save Europe. Instead, They're Condemning It to Horrors." *New York Times Opinion*.

Wednesday, February 18: The European Union

- Jackson, Daniel, and Seth Jolly. 2021. "A New Divide? Assessing the Transnational-Nationalist Dimension among Political Parties and the Public across the EU." *European Union Politics*.

Friday, February 20: Political Entrepreneurs

- De Vries, Catherine E., and Sara B. Hobolt. 2020. *Political Entrepreneurs: The Rise of Challenger Parties in Europe*. Princeton University Press. Chapter 2 (pgs. 40-60).

Week 7: Exam 1

Monday, February 23: Review for Exam 1

Wednesday, February 25: Exam 1

Friday, February 27: Asynchronous Writing Workshop

Week 8: The Local Roots of Extremism

Monday, March 2: Localism

- Fitzgerald, Jennifer. 2018. *Close to Home: Local Ties and Voting Radical Right in Europe*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 2

Wednesday, March 4: Sociocultural Change

- Bolet, Diane. 2021. "Drinking Alone: Local Socio-Cultural Degradation and Radical Right Support—The Case of British Pub Closures." *Comparative Political Studies* 54(9):1653–92.

Friday, March 6: Left Behind Localities

- Nyholt, Niels. 2024. "Left behind: Voters' Reactions to Local School and Hospital Closures." *European Journal of Political Research* 63(3):884–905.

Week 9: The Globalization of Extremism

Monday, March 9: The Contagion of Populism

- Rydgren, Jens. 2005. "Is Extreme Right-Wing Populism Contagious? Explaining the Emergence of a New Party Family." *European Journal of Political Research* 44(3):413–37.

Wednesday, March 11: Electoral Legitimization

- Devine, Daniel. 2021. "Discrete Events and Hate Crimes: The Causal Role of the Brexit Referendum." *Social Science Quarterly* 102(1):374–86.

Friday, March 13: Learning From Abroad

- Mos, Martijn, and Igor Macedo Piovezan. 2024. "Leadership in International Populism: How Viktor Orbán's Hungary Shows the Way." *New Perspectives* 32(4):329–46.
- **Party Essay Due at 11:59pm**

SPRING BREAK (No Class): March 16 – March 20

Week 10: The Normalization of Extremism

Monday, March 23: Normalized by Success

- Abou-Chadi, Tarik, and Werner Krause. 2018. "The Causal Effect of Radical Right Success on Mainstream Parties' Policy Positions: A Regression Discontinuity Approach." *British Journal of Political Science* 1–19.

Wednesday, March 25: Normalized by Others

- Valentim, Vicente, Elias Dinas, and Daniel Ziblatt. 2025. "How Mainstream Politicians Erode Norms." *British Journal of Political Science* 55:e105.

Friday, March 27: Eroding Social Norms

- Valentim, Vicente. 2024. *The Normalization of the Radical Right: A Norms Theory of Political Supply and Demand*. 1st ed. **Chapter 2. [Optional Chapter 8].**

Week 11: Consequences (I): Representation

Monday, March 30: Political Engagement

- Bichay, Nicolas. 2024. "Representation or Reprehension? Radical-Right Electoral Competition, Satisfaction with Democracy, and Voter Turnout." *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties*. 1–24.

Wednesday, April 1: Women's Issues

- Meguid, Bonnie M., Hilde Coffé, Ana Catalano Weeks, and Miki Caul Kittilson. 2025. "Strategic Inclusion Without Transformation: How Populist Radical Right Parties Engage With Women's Interests." *Comparative Political Studies*.

Friday, April 3: LGBTQ+ Issues

- Turnbull-Dugarte, Stuart J., and Alberto López Ortega. 2024. "Instrumentally Inclusive: The Political Psychology of Homonationalism." *American Political Science Review* 118(3): 1360–78.

Week 12: Consequences (II): Deconsolidation

Monday, April 6: Democratic Attitudes

- Erhardt, Julian, and Maximilian Filsinger. 2025. "A Spectre of Democracy: Are Populist Citizens Less Supportive of Democracy?" *West European Politics* 48(7): 1599–1628.

Wednesday, April 8: Polarization

- Harteveld, Eelco, Philipp Mendoza, and Matthijs Rooduijn. 2022. "Affective Polarization and the Populist Radical Right: Creating the Hating?" *Government and Opposition* 57(4): 703–27.

Friday, April 10: Political Violence

- Matsunaga, Miku. 2025. "Are Right-wing Populists More Likely to Justify Political Violence?" *European Journal of Political Research* 64(1): 374–88.
- **Research Paper Due**

Week 13: Consequences (III): Global Affairs

Monday, April 13: Guest Speaker: To Be Announced

- Hunter, Wendy, and Timothy J. Power. 2019. "Bolsonaro and Brazil's Illiberal Backlash." *Journal of Democracy* 30(1): 68–82.

Wednesday, April 15: International Organizations

- Walter, Stefanie. 2021. "Brexit Domino? The Political Contagion Effects of Voter-Endorsed Withdrawals from International Institutions." *Comparative Political Studies* 54(13): 2382–2415.

Friday, April 17: Environmentalism

- Halikiopoulou, Daphne, Christos Vrakopoulos, and Christoph Arndt. 2025. "Far-Right against Green: The Re-Emergence of Geographically Defined Voting Patterns and the New Environment Cleavage in Western Europe." *European Political Science Review*: 1–20.

Week 14: Resisting Extremism

Monday, April 20: Exclusion

- Riera, Pedro, and Marco Pastor. 2022. "Cordons Sanitaires or Tainted Coalitions? The Electoral Consequences of Populist Participation in Government." *Party Politics* 28(5): 889–902.

Wednesday, April 22: Coordination

- No Readings
- **Research Paper Due @ 11:59pm**

Friday, April 24: Review for Final Exam

FINAL EXAM: Friday, May 1st from 1:30-4pm

Classroom Behavior: Students and faculty are responsible for maintaining an appropriate learning environment in all instructional settings, whether in person, remote, or online. Failure to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, marital status, political affiliation, or political philosophy. For more information, see the [classroom behavior policy](#), the [Student Code of Conduct](#), and the [Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance](#).

Accommodation for Disabilities: If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the [Disability Services website](#). Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or DSinfo@colorado.edu for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) on the Disability Services website.

If you have a temporary illness, injury or required medical isolation for which you require adjustment, please let me know as soon as possible via e-mail.

Preferred Student Names and Pronouns: CU Boulder recognizes that students' legal information doesn't always align with how they identify. Students may update their preferred names and pronouns via the student portal; those preferred names and pronouns are listed on instructors' class rosters. In the absence of such updates, the name that appears on the class roster is the student's legal name.

Honor Code: All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the [Honor Code](#). Violations of the Honor Code may include but are not limited to: plagiarism (including use of paper writing services or technology [such as essay bots]), cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. Understanding the course's syllabus is a vital part in adhering to the Honor Code. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution: StudentConduct@colorado.edu. Students found responsible for violating the [Honor Code](#) will be assigned resolution outcomes from the Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution as well as be subject to academic sanctions from the faculty member. Visit [Honor Code](#) for more information on the academic integrity policy.

Note: Use of AI in your written answers is considered plagiarism in this course and is not permitted and will result in an "F" in the course!

Discrimination and Harassment: CU Boulder is committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. University policy prohibits [protected-class](#) discrimination and harassment, sexual misconduct (harassment, exploitation, and assault), intimate partner abuse (dating or domestic violence), stalking, and related retaliation by or against members of our community on- and off-campus. The Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) addresses these concerns, and individuals who have been subjected to misconduct can contact

OIEC at 303-492-2127 or email CUreport@colorado.edu. Information about university policies, [reporting options](#), and [support resources](#) including confidential services can be found on the [OIEC website](#). Please know that faculty and graduate instructors must inform OIEC when they are made aware of incidents related to these policies regardless of when or where something occurred. This is to ensure that individuals impacted receive outreach from OIEC about resolution options and support resources. To learn more about reporting and support for a variety of concerns, visit the [Don't Ignore It page](#).

Religious Holidays: Campus policy requires faculty to provide reasonable accommodations for students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. Please communicate the need for a religious accommodation in a timely manner. In this class, **please let me know by the end of week 3 of any religious accommodations you may require.** See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details.

Mental Health and Wellness: The University of Colorado Boulder is committed to the well-being of all students. If you are struggling with personal stressors, mental health or substance use concerns that are impacting academic or daily life, please contact [Counseling and Psychiatric Services \(CAPS\)](#) located in C4C or call (303) 492-2277, 24/7. Free and unlimited telehealth is also available through [Academic Live Care](#). The Academic Live Care site also provides information about additional wellness services on campus that are available to students.