

Title of the course:	Political radicalism - Political populism, forms of democracy and democratic deficit-perceptions in Europe		
Course ID:	VE-NPT008		
Level of education:	Regular & Erasmus	Academic semester:	Fall
Professor's name:	Dr. Grajczjár István	Academic title:	associate professor
Hours per semester:	30	Credits:	4
Exam:	presentation and homework	Pre-requisites:	

The goal of seminar

Constant democratic developments and embedding democratic rules should be the most important characteristics of the European countries. However, democratic developments can not only be a one-way street, but also toys of populist political forces. Sometimes there are serious defects in the operation of democracy, which we call defective democracy.

We speak of **exclusive democracy** when large parts of the population are excluded from free elections, violating the principle of free, general and fair elections. This also damages the legitimacy of rule (popular sovereignty), as well as limits the access to rule.

In **illiberal democracy**, the limits of the right to rule are exceeded in such a way that the executive branch, the state bureaucracy or parts of the judiciary do not behave in accordance with the principles of constitutional democracy.

The **delegative democracy** neglects of the principle of separation of powers, i.e. checks and balances. In the case of delegative democracy, the separation of powers among the three branches of government is not fully realized. Political power is concentrated monocratically in the executive branch, usually in the hands of a charismatic president, who bypasses parliamentary control and acts on the independent judiciary.

Enclave democracies can be said to exist when freely and fairly elected governments are influenced by an external "veto power." These can be the military, separatists, entrepreneurs or multinational corporations.

In this seminar – on the one hand - we analyse the democratic characteristics of chosen European countries based on the subdimensions of Freedom House's measurement: political rights (electoral process), political pluralism and participation, functioning of the government, civil liberties (freedom of expression and belief), associational and organizational rights, rule of law, personal autonomy and individual rights. On the other hand, based on the data of the European social survey 2012-2020, we analyse and compare the democratic engagements and deficit-perceptions of European citizens with the above mentioned country characteristics to understanding discrepancies between the democratic model and functioning of a given country and, the democratic "demands" of the citizens: ie. the embeddedness of democracy.

Topics of the seminar

1. Introduction: notions of democracy
2. Democratic developments in the last decades in Europe
3. Political populism and hybridization
4. Analysing and typifying chosen European countries based on its chosen democratic ways
5. Analysing historical and geopolitical reasons.
6. Analysing socio-economic reasons.
7. Analysing socio-psychological reasons and voting intentions.
8. Analysing system justificatory intentions.
9. Methodological considerations (quantitative methods)
10. Working group presentation: analysing and comparing the operation of the chosen country with people's perceptions of the democracy I.
11. Working group presentation: analysing and comparing the operation of the chosen country with people's perceptions of the democracy II.
12. Working group presentation: analysing and comparing the operation of the chosen country with people's perceptions of the democracy III.
13. Working group presentation: analysing and comparing the operation of the chosen country with people's perceptions of the democracy IV.
14. Working group presentation: analysing and comparing the operation of the chosen country with people's perceptions of the democracy V.
15. Conclusions.

Examination

- *Presentation and homework about the democratic developments in the chosen country*

Literature

Merkel, W. (2004). Embedded and defective democracies. *Democratization*, 11(5), 33-58.

Bühlmann, M., Merkel, W., & Wessels, B. (2008). The quality of democracy: Democracy barometer for established democracies.

Merkel, W. (2014). Is there a crisis of democracy?. *Democratic Theory*, 1(2), 11-25.

Wodak, R., KhosraviNik, M., & Mral, B. (Eds.). (2013). *Right-wing populism in Europe: Politics and discourse*. A&C Black.

Recommended literature:

Stanley, B. (2017). Populism in central and eastern Europe. *The Oxford handbook of populism*, 1(6), 140-158.

Mansbridge, J., & Macedo, S. (2019). Populism and democratic theory. *Annual Review of Law and Social Science*, 15, 59-77.

Finchelstein, F., & Urbinati, N. (2018). On populism and democracy. *Populism*, 1(1), 15-37.