**JTM084 Current Challenges in Europe**

**Martin Mejstřík**

Winter semester 2023/2024

Fri 12:30 -14:00

martin.mejstrik@fsv.cuni.cz



The master course Current challenges in Europe was especially designed for the European Politics and Society – Václav Havel Joint Master Programme and is a part of obligatory EPS courses. It consists mainly of guest lectures delivered by guest lecturers from Partner universities, Charles University academics, associated partners representatives and experts giving the students a multidimensional perspective (academic and non-academic) on current challenges Europe and European Union have been recently facing.

The course will be held in Jinonice in the room B103

**Requirements:**

Seminar paper – 8-10 pages, students may choose from different lecture topics, deadline for topic upload: 30/11/2023, deadline for submission January 15, 2024.

All documents will be uploaded to moodle: https://dl1.cuni.cz/course/view.php?id=5468

**Course evaluation:**

A - "výborně - A" - "excellent - A"
B - "výborně - B" - "excellent - B"
C - "velmi dobře - C" - "very good - C"
D - "velmi dobře - D" - "very good - D"
E - "dobře - E" - "good - E"
F - "neprospěl/a - F" - "fail - F"

**Reading:**

Articles and book chapters (20-40 pages/week). Links on moodle.

**Programme:**

6/10 **Introduction** + **Cleavages in Europe: religious, ethnic, economic, social**

Discussion about main cleavages in European society and their changes in recent years

Kriesi, H., Restructuration of Partisan Politics and the Emergence of a New Cleavage Based on Values, *West European Politics*, 33:3, 2010, pp. 673-685.

Minkenberg, M., Religion and Euroscepticism: Cleavages, Religious Parties and Churches in EU Member States, *West European Politics*, 32:6, 2009, pp. 1190-1211.

13/10 **Current Populism in Europe**

Discussion about main populist topics and actors in contemporary Europe

Kriesi, Hanspeter. 2014. "The Populist Challenge". *West European Politics* 37, 2, 361-378.

Mudde, Cas. 2004. „The Populist Zeitgeist“. *Government and Opposition* 39, 4: 542-563.

20/10 **Post-communist countries: a successful transformation?**

Discussion about how the post-communist countries performed during the process of transformation towards democracy and how they are doing now.

Kitschelt, H., Mansfeldová, Z., *Post-Communist Party Systems*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999, pp. 19-42.

Ágh, A., Increasing europopulism as a megatrend in East Central Europe: from facade democracies to velvet dictatorship, *Baltic Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 5, 2016, pp. 21-39.

3/11 **Democratic Consolidation and Backsliding**

Guest lecture from Thareerat Laohabut (University of Munich and EPS Alumna)

This session aims to theoretically and empirically explore and understand the dynamics and changes in European democracy in the post-Cold War era.

Bogaards, M. (2018). De-democratization in Hungary: Diffusely Defective Democracy, *Democratization. 25*(8), 1481-1499.

Lührmann. A & Lindberg, S. I. (2019) A third wave of autocratization is here: what is new about it?, *Democratization*, *26*(7), 1095-1113.

10/11 **EU-Russia Relations Since 2014**, 12:30 – 14:00

 Guest lecture from Maxine David (Leiden University)

Siddi, M., The partnership that failed: EU-Russia relations and the war in Ukraine, *Journal of European Integration*, 2022, 44:6, pp. 893-898.

10/11 **Economic aspects of EU's environmental policy**, 14:00 – 15:30

Guest lecture from Vera Scepanovic (Leiden University)

24/11 **Green Politics of the EU**

Where has the green new deal its origin? What is so revolutionary about the European Green Deal (if any)? Can the EU be perceived as the green global leader?

Liefferink, D. and Wurzel, R. (2017). Environmental Leaders and Pioneers: Agents of Change? Journal of European Public Policy 24(7), pp. 951-968.

1/12 **Climate and related securities and Europe**

### What kind of climate security risks does Europe concentrate on? How does climate security change the geopolitics of the European perspective on the world?

Kuzemko, C. et al. (2022). Russia's War on Ukraine, European Energy Policy Responses & Implications for Sustainable Transformations. *Energy Research & Social Science* 93, pp. 1-8.

8/12  **European Left: what happened after the end of the welfare state?**

Discussion about the development of left-wing ideologies in the 21st century.

Císař, O., The Left in the beginning of the 21st century, in Kopeček, L., *Trajectories of the Left. Social Democratic and Ex-Communist Parties in Contemporary Europe: Between Past and Future*, Brno: CDK, 2005, pp. 11-28.

March, L., Radical Left Success before and after Great Recession, in March, L. and D. Keith, *Europe´s Radical Right: From Marginality to Mainstream?*, London: Rowman, 2016, pp. 27-50.

### 15/12 Migration to Europe: challenges and opportunities

###  Discussion about main national and EU approaches towards different types of migration to Europe

###  Mathias Czaika, Marta Bivand Erdal & Cathrine Talleraas (2023) Exploring Europe’s external migration policy mix: on the interactions of visa, readmission, and resettlement policies, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 49:12, 3140-3161

Erik Snel, Özge Bilgili & Richard Staring (2021) Migration trajectories and transnational support within and beyond Europe, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 47:14.

### 22/12 Final session + Guest lecture of Jakub Klepal (Forum 2000)