

POU44403 — Topics in Far-Right Politics

Module Information	
Module Code	POU44403
Module Title	<i>Topics in Far-Right Politics</i>
Department	<i>Political Science</i>
Year Group	<i>Senior Sophister</i>
Module Personnel	<i>Dr Matthias Dilling</i>
Academic Year	<i>2026–27</i>
Credit Weighting	<i>5 credits</i>
Semester	<i>Semester 1</i>
Contact Hours	<i>11x 2 hours of classes</i>

Module Content	
Module Description	<i>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.</i> <i>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.</i>
Module Learning Aims	<i>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</i>

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	<i>evidence to conduct their own research into the varying success of the far right.</i>
Learning Outcomes	<i>On successful completion of this module students should be able to:</i> <i>• Explain and critically examine concepts in the study of far-right politics,</i> <i>• 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,</i> <i>• Examine and appraise the evidence and the research designs used to generate that evidence in favor and against those explanations, and</i> <i>• Design and implement their own research project on topics relating to far-right parties.</i>
Indicative Reading / Resources	• Albertazzi, Daniele et al. (2025) <i>Populist Radical Right Parties in Action. The Survival of the Mass Party</i>. Oxford University Press. • Cramer, Katherine (2016) <i>The Politics of Resentment. Rural Consciousness in Wisconsin and the Rise of Scott Walker</i>. University of Chicago Press. • De Vries, Catherine, and Hobolt, Sarah (2020) <i>Political Entrepreneurs. The Rise of Challenger Parties in Europe</i>. Princeton University Press. • Vicente, Valentim (2024) <i>The Normalization of the Radical Right. A Norms Theory of Political Supply and Demand</i>. Oxford University Press.

Assessment	
Assessment Components	<i>Response paper (10%), Recorded presentation (25%), Research paper (65%)</i>

Additional Information	
Prerequisites	<i>None</i>
Co-requisites	<i>None</i>