

SOP77141— Radical Right Movements and Resistance in Comparative Perspective

Module Information	
Module Code	SOP77141
Module Title	Radical Right Movements and Resistance in Comparative Perspective
Department	Sociology
Year Group	MPhil Race, Ethnicity and Conflict
Module Personnel	Larissa Meier
Academic Year	2026-2027
Credit Weighting	10 credits
Semester	Semester 2
Contact Hours	1 two-hour lecture per week

Module Content	
Module Description	The radical right is on the rise globally — prompting some analysts to argue that “othering” constitutes the defining problem of the twenty-first century (Powell and Menendian 2024). This module examines far-right politics: how it can be defined, how its rise can be explained, and what consequences it has for societies. The module engages with far-right politics not only as a party phenomenon, but also as a social movement, as well as through the mainstreaming of far-right ideas in public discourse, the media, and popular culture. Particular emphasis is placed on how different societal actors respond to far-right politics, and on the effects these responses have on either weakening or strengthening far-right actors and ideas. Recognising that far-right politics and responses to it differ across societies, the module adopts a comparative approach, exploring far-right politics in a range of contexts. Its goal is to understand both similarities and differences in patterns of far-right mobilisation and societal division across Europe, Latin America, and Asia.
Module Learning Aims	

Module Content

Learning Outcomes	List On successful completion of the module, you will be able to: • Demonstrate a critical understanding of far-right politics, including its key ideological features, organisational forms, and modes of mobilisation. • Analyse the rise and transformation of far-right actors across different political, social, and cultural contexts. • Evaluate competing explanations for the emergence and consolidation of far-right politics, drawing on relevant theoretical approaches. • Examine how far-right ideas circulate beyond party politics through social movements, media, and popular culture. • Assess the role of societal actors and institutional responses in shaping the strength, legitimacy, and influence of far-right mobilisation. • Apply a comparative perspective to identify both similarities and differences in far-right dynamics across Europe, Latin America, and Asia.
Indicative Reading / Resources	Required and recommended readings will be provided each week via Blackboard.

Assessment

Assessment Components	Research Paper 60%, Presentation 40%
Assessment Details	Given that Ireland has recently experienced, and continues to experience, a wave of far-right street mobilisation that remains relatively underexplored in academic research, students will conduct their own small-scale research project on far-right politics in Ireland. This project is designed to encourage empirical engagement with contemporary political developments in a local context, drawing on both primary and secondary sources where appropriate. Students will present their findings in an in-class presentation, where they will discuss their research and key empirical insights. Building on this, they will further develop their work into a final research paper, allowing for deeper analysis and reflection on the dynamics, actors, and societal responses associated with far-right mobilisation in Ireland.



Additional Information	
Prerequisites	None
Co-requisites	None
Any other information	