Course Description:
This lecture and seminar course surveys the global history of populism and its main populist actors from the early 19th Century to the present, focusing on Russia, the United States, Canada, Argentina, Brazil, Australia, New Zealand, France, Italy, Ghana, Burkina Faso, South Africa, Zambia, and India.

Prerequisite:
1.0 History course at the 2200 level or above

Course Syllabus:
Populism is one of the most controversial and fervently discussed topics in the social sciences today. While there is much scholarly debate over how precisely populism should be defined, it is generally agreed that all forms of populism include a critique of ‘the establishment/the elite’ and adulation of the ‘common people.’ It is also conventional wisdom that populism originated in the late 19th century as agrarian protest movements in Russia (where narodnichestvo or ‘populism’ appeared in response to hardships encountered by the peasantry in feudal tsarist Russia), and in the United States (where rural discontents were expressed politically via the People’s Party). Today, populism affects almost all continents and political regimes but is especially prevalent in the democracies of Europe and the Americas.

The course begins by considering how best to define ‘populism.’ Next, some recent and high-profile manifestations of populism, including Trumpism, Brexeters, France’s National Front, and Venezuela’s Hugo Chávez will be studied to provide a contemporary context. The principal focus of the course surveys the global history of populism and its main populist actors over the past 150 years, focusing specifically on Russia, the United States, Canada, Latin America (especially Argentina and Brazil), Australia and New Zealand, France, Italy, Africa (Ghana, Burkina Faso, South Africa, and Zambia), and India.

Each session of the course will begin with a contextual lecture by Professor Fleming, followed by a class discussion of the required readings facilitated by one or two designated students along with Professor Fleming.

Learning Outcomes:
Students will be able to
• identify major events, concepts, and personalities associated with early manifestations of populism globally
interact with information about a wide range of people, groups, events, and documents discussed in the assigned readings and explain their significance

- strengthen skills of oral and written communication
- analyze primary and secondary sources, including their origins, methods, arguments, strengths, limitations, potential implications, and significance for the study of the global history of populism
- solve research problems by identifying a topic, refining it to a significant and answerable historical question, determining the essential components of the argument, organizing the parts of the essay, and drawing conclusions
- effectively integrate primary and secondary sources within class presentations, discussions, and research essays
- analyze academically the impact of historical precedents that contextualize present day expressions of populism globally

**Course Materials:**
The course **Required Readings** are available in digital format at the Western Libraries site for History 3735G (which can be accessed via the ‘Course Readings’ link on the course OWL website).

**Methods of Evaluation:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Essay (due Friday March 15th)</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seminar Leadership</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seminar Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lecture Written Responses (10 x 3%)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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</tbody>
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**Students must pass all components of the course (research essay; seminar leadership; seminar participation; lecture written responses) to achieve a passing grade in the course.**

Each student will write a **research essay** (13-15 typewritten pages in length) from the list of acceptable essay topics assigned by the instructor. An electronic copy of the completed research essay must be submitted via the course OWL website no later than **Friday March 15th at 11:55 p.m.** In addition, the essay must be submitted by the due date and time to Turnitin.com via the course OWL website. A late penalty of 5% for the first day and 2% per day thereafter (weekends included) will be assessed against any research essay submitted after the due date.

Each student will be assigned one seminar to assist the course instructor in **leading the class discussion** of the required readings for that week. Following the contextual lecture by Professor Fleming, the student will begin the discussion component of the session by providing a brief (approximately 5 minute) summation of the key themes arising from that session’s assigned readings. The student will then, together with Professor Fleming, facilitate the class discussion. In preparation for that responsibility, the student will submit to Professor Fleming at least seven questions on which they intend to base the class discussion. Those questions must be emailed to Professor Fleming no later than 8:00 p.m. the Wednesday immediately preceding the seminar. Depending on class size, two students might be assigned to lead the same seminar session, in which case it is expected that the students will collaborate in developing the questions and facilitating the seminar discussion. The **‘seminar leadership’ assignments** will be made immediately following Session One on 11 January 2024.

Students will submit each week a **written response** (maximum 500 words per weekly response) to a question **based on the lecture** for that week. The lecture response questions will be posted on the “Assignments” section of the course OWL website by 8:00 p.m. on the day of the lecture. Students will have twenty-four hours to submit their written answers via the course OWL website. Responses must also be submitted to Turnitin.com via the course OWL website. **Late submissions** (defined as after 8 p.m.)
the day following the posting of the lecture question) will not be accepted or graded. The written responses are not a research assignment, and only information derived from the class lectures will be accepted and graded as the ‘lecture written response’ component of the course.

Students are expected to attend and participate actively in all seminar discussions, thereby demonstrating their comprehension of the Required Readings. This course syllabus also lists numerous Supplementary Readings which students are not required to read but are useful for providing context or examining in greater detail the weekly discussion topics.

All students will be assigned a participation grade on a 10-point scale following each seminar. Failure to attend a seminar will result in a score of “0” for that class. Merely attending a seminar without participating in the discussion will result in a score of “2” for that class. The assignment of a participation grade from “3” to “10” will be determined by the quality of the student’s contributions to discussion during any given seminar.

In instances when absence from class is unavoidable, students are expected, when possible, to inform the instructor in advance of their pending absence.

Non-illness absences from seminars are unacceptable. Any student attending fewer than nine of the twelve scheduled seminars (an absence rate of approximately 25%) for non-illness reasons will be assigned a failing grade for seminar participation and a failing grade in the course.

NOTE: All assignments submitted for assessment in this course must be entirely your own work. Any assignments prepared with the assistance of generative AI tools like ChatGPT cannot reasonably be deemed “entirely your own work.”

Course Schedule and Readings:

Session One: Thursday 11 January 2024
Introduction to History 3735G

Session Two: Thursday 18 January 2024
Topic: What is Populism?

Required Readings:
https://journals-scholarsportal-info.proxy1.lib.uwo.ca/details/13510487/v26i0003/418_pwbnoagh.xml

https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199585977.013.0026

https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2020/03/what-is-populism/607600/

Supplementary Reading:

Session Three: Thursday 25 January 2024
Topic: Global Populism in 2024

Required Readings:
The Economist, “Europe’s Hard Right,” 16 September 2023, pp. 18-20. [available on ‘Resources’ link]

Supplementary Readings:
https://journals-scholarsportal-info.proxy1.lib.uwo.ca/details/00384941/v102i0001/107_tpatnttorpic.xml
https://journals-scholarsportal-info.proxy1.lib.uwo.ca/pdf/01925121/v38i0004/399_piwpaccp.xml
Laura Silver, “Populists in Europe – especially those on the right – have increased their vote shares in recent elections,” Pew Research Centre, October 6, 2022.
https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2022/10/06/populists-in-europe-especially-those-on-the-right-have-increased-their-vote-shares-in-recent-elections/

Session Four: Thursday 1 February 2024
Topic: Populism in Russia

Required Readings:

Supplementary Readings:

Political Economy of Populism in India, Turkey, Russia and Brazil (Routledge, 2023), pp. 115-128.


Session Five: Thursday 8 February 2024
Topic: Populism in the United States

Required Readings:


Supplementary Readings:

Session Six: Thursday 15 February 2024
Topic: Populism in Canada

Required Readings:


Supplementary Readings:

**Session Seven: Thursday 29 February 2024**
**Topic:** Populism in Latin America (Brazil and Argentina)

**Required Readings:**

**Supplementary Readings:**
https://journals.scholarsportal.info.proxy1.lib.uwo.ca/pdf/01925121/v38i0004/441_pilaoanpiaab.xml

**Session Eight: Thursday 7 March 2024**
**Topic:** Populism in Australia and New Zealand
Required Readings:


Supplementary Reading:

Session Nine: Thursday 14 March 2024
Topic: Populism in France and Italy

Required Readings:


Supplementary Reading:

ESSAY DUE TOMORROW (FRIDAY MARCH 15TH)

Session Ten: Thursday 21 March 2024
Topic: Populism in Africa
Required Readings:

Supplementary Readings:

Session Eleven: Thursday 28 March 2024
Topic: Populism in India

Required Readings:


Supplementary Readings:

Session Twelve: Thursday 4 April 2024
Topic: Flotsam and Jetsam

Additional Statements:
Please review the Department of History’s shared policies and statements for all undergraduate courses at: https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html for important information regarding accessibility options, make-up exams, medical accommodations, health and wellness, academic integrity, plagiarism, and more.