Course description
In this course we will study the concept of populism and its empirical expressions in comparative perspective. The study of populism has gained renewed attention recently, due to the rise of populist forces to power in both new and established democracies across the globe. In the first part of the course, we will trace the debate about the elusive concept of populism by discussing the work of classic theorists like Ernesto Laclau and Margaret Canovan as well as contemporary contributions to the debate. In the second part of the course, we will then investigate empirical examples of populism and discuss different ways of measuring and analysing populism in comparative perspective.

Teaching approach
The goal of the course is to augment each student's ability to analyse and evaluate complex social phenomena. More specifically, students will be trained to understand the promises and pitfalls of concept formation and its consequences for the measurement of social phenomena. They will improve their written and oral English skills and learn to work in teams.

Requirements
Students should be able to understand and articulate themselves in English as this will be the general classroom language. Of course, perfection is not required but you should be able to make yourself understood.

- Teilnahmebescheinigung: regular and active participation in class, preparation of the assigned readings before the session, in-class presentation (oral presentation, ca. 15 min) or literature report (5 pages).
- Modulabschluss: regular and active participation in class, preparation of the assigned readings before the session, in-class presentation (oral presentation, ca. 15 min) and a course paper (10-15 pages). Deadline for course papers is February 28, 2019; themes of the course papers need to be coordinated beforehand with the lecturer.

The required reading materials are available via the following resources: 1) OLAT; 2) Online library via https://hds.hebis.de/ubffm/Discover/Home; 3) Semesterapparat
Syllabus & Reading Assignments

General reading recommendation

Session 1 (October 19): Introduction and housekeeping
Required readings:

Session 2 (October 26): Normative theories on populism (and democracy)
Required readings:

Session 3 (November 2): Concept formation in social science
Required readings:

Session 4 (November 9): The contested concept of populism I
Required readings:

Session 5 (November 16): The contested concept of populism II
Required readings:
Session 6 (November 23): Core ideas of populism I – „The People”

Required readings:

Optional readings:

Session 7 (November 30): Core ideas of populism II: „The Elite”

Required readings:

Session 8 (December 7): Core ideas of populism III: “People VERSUS Elite”

Required readings:

Session 9 (December 14): Correlates of populism: organization, leadership, charisma

Required readings:

Session 10 (December 21): no class
Session 11 (January 18): Measures of populism

Required readings:

Optional readings:

Block session 12-14 (Saturday, January 26, 10am-6pm): Populism in comparative perspective

Required readings:

Optional readings:
- OHP2017, Part II Regions (with individual chapters on Africa, Australia/ New Zealand, Central and Eastern Europe, East Asia, India, Latin America, Post-Soviet States, United States, Western Europe).

Session 15 (February 15): Academic writing and course evaluation