

Descriptif d'enseignement – 2016/2017

2^{ème} année

Course's title : **Left and Right in Global Politics**

Enseignant(s) : Dr Adrian Pabst

Fonction(s) : Visiting Professor

Type de cours : Séminaire d'ouverture Semestre 1 Semestre 2

Syllabus – Targets:

This course explores whether and to what extent the dichotomy of left and right captures the dynamics of global politics. Few notions are as universal as the idea of an opposition between the left and the right in politics. The seminar examines the historical evolution and contemporary expressions of the left-right divide. Historically, the origins of this divide can be traced to the French Revolution and its complex legacy. For more than two centuries, the conflict between progressives and conservatives has structured both domestic and international politics. In terms of contemporary politics, the logic of left versus right has once more been contested after the end of the Cold War and the binary opposition of state communism and 'free-market' capitalism. The death of the left-right divide has frequently been foretold – whether the idea of a 'third-way' in the 1990s or following the crisis of neo-liberal capitalism in 2008-9.

However, the logic of left versus right remains the most common prism through which to understand and interpret political life at the local, the national and the global level. The left-right divide connects these different levels into an international political debate, and it shapes both individual and collective views of public affairs.

Moreover, this seminar also explores various attempts to overcome the binary opposition between left and right. Examples include certain strands of liberalism (e.g. Constant, Guizot, Tocqueville in France; Burke, Gladstone and T.H. Green in England), Catholic social teaching and contemporary forms of non-statist socialism and non-capitalist conservatism (e.g. associative democracy and 'civil economy').

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