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CYCLE
MASTER

DESCRIPTIF ENSEIGNEMENT

INTITULE DU COURS : **Left and Right in Global Politics**

COURSE'S TITLE :

ENSEIGNANT(S) : **Adrian PABST**

FONCTION(S) : **Senior Lecturer in Politics, University of Kent (Maître de conférences)**

TYPE DE COURS : SEMINAIRE D'OUVERTURE SEMESTRE 2

RESUME DU COURS / OBJECTIFS

This class 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. However, 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').

EVALUATION :

Essay of 2,500 words, on a topic from a list of 10 topics

PLAN / SEANCES :

Lecture 1: Introduction to the class and the topic

I. Concepts and History

Lectures 2 and 3: Why Left and Right? The Logic of Left and Right

Lecture 4: The Nominalist Poles of Left and Right

Lectures 5 and 6: The Voluntarist Poles of Left and Right

Lecture 7: The legacy of the American and the French Revolution

II. Left and Right in National and Global Politics

Lecture 8: Left and Right Go Global

Lecture 9: Left, Right and the Triumph of Liberalism

Lectures 10 and 11: The Neo-liberalism of Left and Right

Lecture 12: The Progressive 'Third Way' and Compassionate Conservatism

Lectures 13 and 14: State Capitalism and Market Monopoly

III. Beyond Left and Right?

Lecture 15: Left and Right as Competing Worldviews?

Lecture 16: The Logic of Dialectics and Paradox as alternatives to left vs. right

Lectures 17 and 18: Post-liberal Politics

BIBLIOGRAPHIE :

Bell, Daniel, *The End of Ideology: On the Exhaustion of Political Ideas in the Fifties* (Glencoe, IL: Free Press, 1960).

Bobbio, Norberto, *Left and right: the significance of a political distinction* (1996)

Brittan, Samuel, *Left or Right. The bogus dilemma* (London: Secker and Warburg, 1968).

Eatwell, Roger and O'Sullivan, Noel, *The Nature of the Right. European and American Politics and Political Thought since 1789* (London: Pinter, 1989).

Gauchet, Marcel, "La droite et la gauche", in Pierre Nora (ed.), *Les Lieux de mémoire*, (Paris: Gallimard, 1997), Vol. II, pp. 2533-2600.

Giddens, Anthony, *Beyond Left and Right. The Future of Radical Politics* (Cambridge: Polity Press, 1994).

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Laponce, J. A., *Left and Right: The Topography of Political Perceptions* (Toronto: Toronto University Press, 1981).

McManus, Chris, *Right Hand, Left Hand: The Origins of Asymmetry in Brains, Bodies, Atoms and Cultures* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2002).

Noël, Alain and Thérien, Jean-Philippe, *Left and Right in Global Politics* (Cambridge : Cambridge University Press, 2008).