

INTS 611

DEMOCRACY AND POPULISM IN EUROPE

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"A spectre is haunting Europe," wrote Karl Marx in 1848. For Marx, this specter was communism but in our own time, new spirits and social forces threaten to undermine the fragile political balance of the European continent. From "Brexit" and the Eurozone crisis, to the electoral victories of far-right, anti-establishment, and populist parties, to the socio-cultural and economic concerns raised by the arrival of more than one million refugees and asylum seekers, and the de-stabilizing effects of a resurgent and belligerent Russia, Europe today is a region characterized by great political uncertainty. This three-week, intensive, immersion based course offers students an introduction to contemporary European politics. Over the course of our travels, students will learn about the political structures, institutions, policy challenges, and domestic debates in a number of European countries. Topics covered include the question of European identity and the history of European integration, the politics of migration and multiculturalism, the role that supranational institutions like the European Union, European Commission, European Central Bank, and NATO play in shaping domestic and regional politics, the Eurozone crisis and the politics of austerity, the causes and consequences of Brexit, and the rise of populism.