

ANKARA YILDIRIM BEYAZIT UNIVERSITY – DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION COURSE SYLLABUS					
Course Code	Course Title	Course Type	ECTS Credits	Prerequisite Information	Date of Preparation
PSPA213	Methodology in Social Sciences	Compulsory	5	-	September 2026
Instructor of the Course & E-Mail Address	Prof.Dr. Seyit Ali Avcu (saavcu@aybu.edu.tr)				
Office Hours & Office Room	Friday, 12:00-14:00, Office No: B317				
Course Content and Objectives	The purpose of this course is to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the scientific method of research and analysis as applied in political science and public administration. The course aims to familiarize students with the fundamental issues of research, including identifying research questions, locating relevant resources, building theoretical arguments, and formulating testable hypotheses. Students will gain exposure to a variety of social science research designs, such as experimental, quasi-experimental, and non-experimental approaches, with particular attention to their potential applications in political science and public administration settings. Through practical engagement, students will develop operationally meaningful skills in gathering data and using it to answer questions of theoretical or applied relevance. By the end of the course, students will be able to develop an applied research design appropriate to their topic of interest and prepare a theoretically engaging and methodologically sound research proposal. Additionally, the course emphasizes the significance of ethical issues throughout the research process, ranging from methodological concerns to broader considerations regarding the generalization of findings. This course focuses on formulating questions, selecting analytical methods, developing conclusions and recommendations, and understanding the use of appropriate research methodologies in public administration and political science. The course demonstrates the application of the following to both practical professional analysis and scholarly inquiry: the exploration of relevant scholarly and professional literature; the design of research approaches; the utilization of various quantitative and qualitative research methods and techniques; the collection, manipulation, interpretation, and representation of data gathered; and the use of information thus obtained in the solution of policy problems confronting professional administrators and politicians.				
Textbook(s)	Babbie, Earl (2014), The Basics of Social Research. Cengage Learning, 6th Edition. (ISBN-13: 978-1133936770) The student is expected to come to class having read the weekly course material.				
Teaching Methods and Techniques	The course will be conducted through a combination of lectures, case analyses and class discussions.				
Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)	1	Explain the fundamental research methods used in social sciences (quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods) conceptually and compare the differences between them, thereby acquiring basic skills for other courses.			
	2	Formulate a research question, select an appropriate research design, and plan the data collection process, thereby developing research and questioning skills.			
	3	Analyze data using quantitative and qualitative data analysis methods and interpret the findings, thereby improving analytical thinking skills.			
	4	Report research findings in accordance with academic writing standards and present them in the format of a scientific article or report, thereby making the information functional.			
	5	Identify ethical principles in scientific research and demonstrate ethical conduct throughout the research process, thereby developing scientific thinking and critical thinking skills.			

Program Outcomes Contributed by the Course	Program Outcomes (PO)										
	P01	Defines and interprets the core concepts, theories, and approaches of political science, public administration, law, and urbanization–environment.									
	P02	Compares the intellectual foundations of major political ideologies and of social-difference phenomena such as religion, identity, nationalism, and ethnicity, and analyzes their reflections on politics and society.									
	P03	Analyzes the historical development of Turkish political life, state–society relations, and Türkiye's administrative-constitutional structure.									
	P04	Analyzes relations among societies and states in the context of world history, and evaluates current developments at national, regional, and global levels on a theoretical basis.									
	P05	Defines the core concepts and principles of economics and public finance and explains the relationship between fiscal and economic policies and political-administrative decisions.									
	P06	Interprets public and private law legislation and transfers legislative change into administrative implementation processes.									
	P07	Uses quantitative and qualitative research methods to collect and analyze data and to make scientific inferences about political-administrative phenomena.									
	P08	Evaluates urbanization and environmental problems at local, national, and global scales and develops policy proposals to address them.									
	P09	Recognizes professional roles and employment fields in the public, private, and civil-society sectors and applies acquired knowledge to these fields with professional, scientific, and ethical responsibility.									
Contribution of the Course to Field Instruction											
	Contribution: 1: Very Slight 2:Slight 3:Moderate 4:Significant 5:Very Significant										
		P01	P02	P03	P04	P05	P06	P07	P08	P09	
	All	5	4	3	3	3	3	5	2	5	
	C01	5	3	2	3	3	2	5	2	4	
	C02	5	3	2	3	2	2	5	2	4	
	C03	4	3	2	3	2	2	5	2	4	
	C04	5	3	2	3	2	2	5	2	5	
	C05	4	5	3	3	2	3	5	2	5	
	Topics Covered in the Course										
Weeks		Topics								Reading Materials	
1. Week		Introduction: Human Inquiry and Science								Babbie Ch.1	
2. Week		Paradigms, Theory, and Research								Babbie Ch.2	
3. Week		The Ethics and Politics of Social Research								Babbie Ch.3	
4. Week		Research Design								Babbie Ch.4	
5. Week		Conceptualization, Operationalization, and Measurement								Babbie Ch.5	
6. Week		Indexes, Scales, and Typologies								Babbie Ch.6	
7. Week		The Logic of Sampling								Babbie Ch.7	
8. Week		Midterm week (No lecture)									
9. Week		Experiments								Babbie Ch.8	
10. Week		Data Collection: Survey Research & Questionnaire Construction								Babbie Ch. 9	
11. Week		Qualitative Field Research, Unobtrusive Research								Babbie Chs. 10, 11	
12. Week		Evaluation Research								Babbie Ch. 12	
13. Week		Qualitative Data Analysis								Babbie Ch. 13	
14. Week		Quantitative Data Analysis								Babbie Ch. 14	
15. Week		Reading and Writing Social Research								Babbie Ch. 15	

Course Evaluation Criteria	In-Term Studies	Quantity	Percentage %
	Mid-terms	1	%40
	Quizzes		%
	Assignments		%
	Attendance		%
	Practice		%
	Project		%
	Final examination	1	%60
	Total		100%
Disability Policy	If you have a documented disability (e.g., visual, hearing, or physical impairment, etc.) that may influence your performance in this course, it is recommended to meet with the Engelsiz AYBU (https://aybu.edu.tr/engelsiz/content_list-327-yildirim-beyazit-universitesi-engelsiz-universite-birimi-vonergesi.html) to arrange for reasonable conditions (such as accommodation, etc.) to ensure an equitable opportunity to meet all the requirements of this course. You may also contact the relevant authority of the Faculty of Political Sciences. You should communicate your needs to the course instructor as soon as possible to ensure that any course needs concerning exams, lecture materials, etc. are met.		
Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools Usage Policy	Assessment in this course is based solely on a midterm and a final exam; therefore, no assignments, projects, or papers are required. Students are welcome to use generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Claude) as supplementary "study assistants" to help understand course materials, review complex topics, and prepare for exams. However, since all examinations will be conducted in-class (proctored), the use of AI tools or any smart devices during exams is strictly prohibited and will be treated as a direct violation of academic integrity (cheating).		