

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
PSPA305	Urban Policy	Compulsory	6	-	September 2026
Instructor of the Course & E-Mail Address	Assist. Prof. Hami Doruk Köse (hdkose@aybu.edu.tr)				
Office Hours & Office Room	Tuesday, 10:00-12:00, Office No: B358				
Course Content and Objectives	The course offers theoretical and analytical tools for examining the actors, institutions, ideas and power relations at work in urban policymaking. Students will study how urban policies take shape under different political and economic regimes and will interrogate who governs the city and on what claim to legitimacy, through debates on growth coalitions, urban governance and the right to the city. Debates specific to Türkiye (neoliberal urbanisation, centre–local relations, urban transformation and the governance of disaster risk) are supported throughout by case studies. The primary objective of this course is to equip students with a comprehensive understanding of urban politics and policy-making processes. Students will explore how urban policies extend beyond the physical structure of cities to address broader goals such as economic development, social equity, environmental sustainability, and civic participation. By analyzing Türkiye’s urbanization experience in comparison with global trends, students will develop critical thinking and policy analysis skills concerning the governance of urban areas.				
Textbook(s)	Banister, D. (2008). "The sustainable mobility paradigm". <i>Transport Policy</i>, 15(2). Bayırbağ, M. K., Schindler, S., & Penpecioglu, M. (2023). Structural violence and the urban politics of hope in Ankara, Turkey. <i>City</i>, 27(3-4), 464-482. Buğra, A. (1998). The immoral economy of housing in Turkey. <i>International Journal of Urban and Regional Research</i>, 22(2), 303-307. Bulkeley, H., Carmin, J., Castan Broto, V., Edwards, G. A., & Fuller, S. (2013). Climate justice and global cities: Mapping the emerging discourses. <i>Global environmental change</i>, 23(5), 914-925. Cochrane, A. (2007). <i>Understanding Urban Policy: A Critical Approach</i>. Blackwell. Dye, T.R. (2017). <i>Understanding Public Policy</i> (15. Ed.). Pearson. Fainstein, S. (2010). <i>The Just City</i>. Cornell University Press. Foglesong, R. E. (2016). Planning the capitalist city. In S. S. Fainstein & J. DeFilippis (Eds.), <i>Readings in Planning Theory</i> (4th ed., ch. 5). Wiley-Blackwell. Güvenç, M. (2024). Off the rails: the failure of Turkey’s twenty-year-long construction frenzy. <i>International planning studies</i>, 29(4), 366-378. Harding, A. & Blokland, T. (2014). <i>Urban Theory: A Critical Introduction to Power, Cities and Urbanism in the 21st Century</i>. Sage. Harvey, D. (2008). "The Right to the City". <i>New Left Review</i>, 53. Hill, M. (2005). <i>The Public Policy Process</i>. Pearson. Kayasü, S., & Yetişkul, E. (2014). Evolving legal and institutional frameworks of neoliberal urban policies in Turkey. <i>METU Journal of the Faculty of Architecture</i>, 31(2), 209–222. Kohn, M. (2024). The right to the city. In R. K. Vogel (Ed.), <i>Handbook of urban politics and policy</i> (pp. 141–155). Edward Elgar Publishing. Kaufmann, D. & Sidney M. (2024), Urban policy process and policy analysis. In R. K. Vogel (Ed.), <i>Handbook of urban politics and policy</i> (pp. 45–61). Edward Elgar Publishing. Kuyucu, T. & Ünsal, Ö. (2010). "'Urban Transformation' as State-led Property Transfer: An Analysis of Two Cases of Urban Renewal in Istanbul". <i>Urban Studies</i>, 47(7). Kuyucu, T. (2014). Law, Property and Ambiguity: The Uses and Abuses of Legal Ambiguity in Remaking Istanbul’s Informal Settlements. <i>International Journal of Urban and Regional Research</i>, 38(2), 609-627. Madden, D. & Marcuse, P. (2016). <i>In Defense of Housing: The Politics of Crisis</i>. Verso. Meerow, S., Newell, J. P. & Stults, M. (2016). "Defining urban resilience: A review". <i>Landscape and Urban Planning</i>, 147, pp. 38–49. Molotch, H. (1976). The city as a growth machine: Toward a political economy of place. <i>American journal of sociology</i>, 82(2), 309-332.				

	Şengül, H. T. (1998). Hegemony and urban space: the case of the Turkish capital Ankara. [Phd dissertation]. University of Kent.		
Teaching Methods and Techniques	The course will be conducted through a combination of lectures, case analyses and class discussions.		
Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)	1	Information	Analyze the causal relationships between the fundamental concepts, theories, and approaches of urban policy and urban politics.
	2	Information	Examine Türkiye’s urbanization process within the context of its administrative-constitutional structure and central-local government relations.
	3	Skill	Analyze the production processes of urban space and public policies within the framework of neoliberal urbanization and critical urban theories (e.g., collective consumption, spatial fix).
	4	Skill	Compare the dynamics emerging in urban policy-making processes (actors, institutions, ideas) through concrete cases such as urban transformation and renewal.
	5	Competence	Discuss the impacts of urban governance legislation and administrative implementation processes on socio-spatial inequalities from a critical perspective.
	6	Competence	Evaluate current urban issues in accordance with academic and ethical standards, based on the principles of climate resilience, inclusivity, and environmental sustainability.
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	This course holds a central place in the curriculum, joining the conceptual foundations of political science, public administration, and law with the field's distinctive focus on urbanization and the environment. Building on students' prior knowledge of administrative structure, it equips them to analyze the actors, institutions, and power relations that shape cities and to evaluate policy in its spatial, economic, social, and environmental dimensions. Its sustained attention to Türkiye's urbanization develops the evidence-based reasoning that graduates apply in central and local government, planning agencies, civil-society organizations, and academic research.		

	Course Learning Outcomes (CLO) Contribution to Programme Outcomes										
	CLO	In/Sk/Co	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	P8	P9
	1	In1	5	2	1	2	2	1	2	4	1
	2	In2	3	1	5	1	2	3	1	4	1
	3	Sk3	4	3	2	3	4	1	2	4	2
	4	Sk4	4	2	2	2	3	2	3	5	2
	5	Co5	4	4	3	2	2	5	1	5	2
	6	Co6	3	2	1	3	1	2	1	5	5
	Contribution: 1: Very Slight 2:Slight 3:Moderate 4:Significant 5:Very Significant										
Topics Covered in the Course	Weeks	Topics								Reading Materials	
	1. Week	Introduction: The City as an Object of Policy — core problematic, key concepts, syllabus and expectations								Harding & Blokland (2014), Introduction	
	2. Week	What Is Public Policy? The Policy Process and Policy Analysis								Dye (2017), chs. 1 and 2	
	3. Week	Explaining the Policy Process: Actors, Institutions and Ideas								Hill (2005), ch. 2	
	4. Week	How Do We Explain the City? Urban Theories and Urbanisation under Different Political-Economic Systems								Harding & Blokland (2014), ch. 2	
	5. Week	Who Governs the City? Urban Politics, Power and the Right to the City								Kohn (2024); Harvey (2008); Molotch (1976)	
	6. Week	What Is "Urban" about Urban Policy? The Urban as Policy Instrument, as Context and as the Space of Policymaking								Cochrane (2007), ch. 1; Kaufmann & Sidney (2024)	
	7. Week	The Instruments of Urban Policy: Planning, Land and Legislation								Foglesong (2016); Kuyucu (2014)	
	8. Week	Midterm week (No lecture)									
	9. Week	Urbanisation in Türkiye I, 1950–1980: Migration, gecekondu and the populist land regime								Buğra (1998); Şengül (1998), ch. 4	
	10. Week	Urbanisation in Türkiye II, 1980 to the Present: Neoliberalisation, TOKİ and urban transformation								Kayasü & Yetişkul (2014); Bayırbağ, Schindler & Penpecioğlu (2023); Kuyucu & Ünsal (2010)	
	11. Week	Urban Policy Fields I: Housing and Urban Transformation								Madden & Marcuse (2016), ch. 1	
	12. Week	Urban Policy Fields II: Urban economic development, inequality, and inclusion								Fainstein (2010), Introduction	
	13. Week	Urban Policy Fields III: Transport, mobility and smart city infrastructures								Banister (2008)	
	14. Week	Urban Policy Fields IV: Environment, climate and disaster (governing risk in the city)								Bulkeley, Carmin, Broto, Edwards, & Fuller (2013); Meerow, Newell, & Stults (2016); Güvenç (2024)	
	15. Week	Synthesis: Whose City? Evaluating Urban Policy								Fainstein (2010), Conclusion	
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-yonergesi.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).
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