

**ANKARA YILDIRIM BEYAZIT UNIVERSITY – DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC FINANCE  
COURSE SYLLABUS**

Course Code	Course Title	Course Type	ECTS Credits	Prerequisite Information	Date of Preparation
PSPA101	Introduction to Politics I	Compulsory	5	-	09.08.2025
<b>Instructor of the Course &amp; E-Mail Address</b>	Dr. İlyas BALCI & <a href="mailto:ilyasbalci@aybu.edu.tr">ilyasbalci@aybu.edu.tr</a>				
<b>Office Hours &amp; Office Room</b>	Tuesday, 11.00-14.00, B357				
<b>Course Content and Objectives</b>	In this course, students will be introduced to the basic concepts, theories, and analytical methods of political science. The course focuses mainly on state, political power, legitimacy, democracy, authoritarianism, and totalitarianism in addition to the functioning of democratic systems through topics such as political participation, political parties, pressure groups, public opinion, media, and elections. By the end of the course, students are expected to gain the ability to think critically about political phenomena, understand the theoretical foundations of politics, and analyze contemporary political issues through multiple perspectives.				
<b>Textbook(s)</b>	Kudret Bülbül. Political Science, Concepts, Institutions, Ideologies. Adres Yayınları, 2025. Andrew Heywood. Politics. Palgrave, 2025.				
<b>Teaching Methods and Techniques</b>	The course will be conducted through lectures, class discussions, and question–answer sessions. Students are expected to complete assigned readings and actively participate in discussions. Homework and short written reflections will be used to reinforce understanding.				
<b>Course Learning Outcomes</b>	1	To identify and explain the basic concepts and theories of political science.			
	2	To understand the nature, functions, and evolution of the state as the main subject of political science.			
	3	To analyze the concept of political power and its relationship with legitimacy.			
	4	To distinguish democracy, authoritarianism, and totalitarianism.			
	5	To examine the functioning of democratic systems through political participation, parties, pressure groups, and elections.			
	6	To interpret the interaction between political institutions, public opinion, and media in shaping political behavior.			
	7	To develop critical and analytical thinking skills for evaluating contemporary political issues from multiple perspectives.			
<b>Program Outcomes Contributed by the Course</b>	<b>Program Outcomes (PO)</b>				
	PO 1.	Possesses fundamental knowledge of political science relevant to understanding public institutions and governance.			
	PO 2.	Demonstrates the ability to analyze how political systems and power structures influence public finance and fiscal policies			
	PO 3.	Develops critical and analytical thinking skills to evaluate political decision-making processes in public budgeting and expenditure.			
	PO 4.	Demonstrates competence in communicating political and administrative issues effectively in academic and professional contexts.			
	PO 5.	Follows current political developments and connects them with issues in fiscal policy and public sector management.			

<b>Contribution of the Course to Field Instruction</b>	The students will be able to have knowledge of the basic political institutions, power relations, and decision-making processes that shape public finance, fiscal policies, and governance structures.				
<b>Topics Covered in the Course</b>	1. Week	General introduction, methodology and review of the syllabus			
	2. Week	Political Science: Definition and its development			
	3. Week	Main Study of Political Science: State			
	4. Week	Main Concept of Political Science: Political Power			
	5. Week	The Problem of Legitimacy of Political Power			
	6. Week	Main Political Concepts: Democracy, Totalitarianism, Authoritarianism			
	7. Week	The Impossibility of Democracy? Class, Elitist and Pluralist Approaches			
	8. Week	Midterm Week			Midterm
	9. Week	Political System			
	10. Week	Classification of Political Systems			
	11. Week	Political Participation			
	12. Week	Political Parties and Party Systems			
	13. Week	Pressure Groups			
	14. Week	Political Interaction, Public Opinion and Media			
	15. Week	Elections, Electoral Systems and Electoral Behavior			
<b>Course Evaluation Criteria</b>	<b>In-Term Studies</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Percentage %</b>	<b>Quant</b>	
	Mid-terms	1	%40		
	Quizzes	-	%0		
	Assignments	14	%0		
	Attendance	-	%0		
	Practice	-	%0		
	Project	-	%0		
	Final examination	1	%60		
	<b>Total</b>		<b>100%</b>		
<b>Disability Policy</b>	<p>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 (<a href="https://aybu.edu.tr/engelsiz/content_list-327-yildirim-beyazit-universitesi-engelsiz-universite-birimi-yonergesi.html">https://aybu.edu.tr/engelsiz/content_list-327-yildirim-beyazit-universitesi-engelsiz-universite-birimi-yonergesi.html</a>) 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 local 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.</p>				