

**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
PSPA359	CONTEMPORARY DEMOCRACIES	Elective	6	-	22.10.2025
Instructor of the Course & E-Mail Address	Asst. Prof. Dr. Özge Öz Döm & ozgeozdom@aybu.edu.tr				
Office Hours & Office Room	Fridays 13.00-14.00 B366				
Course Content and Objectives	<p>This course aims to introduce terms and concepts used to describe democracy around the world. The other aim of the course is to analyze democracy as a political system and democratic institutions through a systematic comparative method.</p> <p>Throughout the course, you will be familiar with the concept of democracy together with different approaches. We will analyze the various models of democracy in practice, evaluate the impact of social, economic, and political challenges on contemporary democracies and critically assess the role of institutions. The course is formed as a seminar class, so active participation of the students is expected. In a seminar course, students are expected to read all the course materials, and grapple aloud with the ideas they've read. They are expected to make arguments and support them with facts.</p>				
Textbook(s)	<p>Lijphart, A. (2012). Patterns of democracy: Government forms and performance in thirty-six countries. Yale University Press.</p> <p><u>Compulsory Readings also;</u></p> <p>Schmitter, P. C., & Karl, T. L. (1991). What democracy is... and is not. <i>Journal of democracy</i>, 2(3), 75-88.</p> <p>Collier, D., & Levitsky, S. (1997). Democracy with adjectives: Conceptual innovation in comparative research. <i>World politics</i>, 49(3), 430-451.</p> <p>Carothers, T. (2002). The end of the transition paradigm. <i>Journal of democracy</i>, 13(1), 5-21.</p> <p>Svolik, M. W. (2015). Which democracies will last? Coups, incumbent takeovers, and the dynamic of democratic consolidation. <i>British Journal of Political Science</i>, 45(4), 715- 738.</p> <p>Cassani, A., & Tomini, L. (2018). Reversing regimes and concepts: from democratization to autocratization. <i>European Political Science</i>, 1-16.</p> <p>Bogaards, M. (2009). How to classify hybrid regimes? Defective democracy and electoral authoritarianism. <i>Democratization</i>, 16(2), 399-423.</p> <p>Lührmann, A., & Lindberg, S. I. (2019). A third wave of autocratization is here: what is new about it?. <i>Democratization</i>, 26(7), 1095-1113.</p> <p>Karatnycky, A. (1999). The decline of illiberal democracy. <i>Journal of Democracy</i>, 10(1), 112-125.</p> <p>Zakaria, F. (1997). The rise of illiberal democracy. <i>Foreign Aff.</i>, 76, 22.</p> <p>Fukuyama, F. (1989). The end of history?. <i>The national interest</i>, (16), 3-18.</p> <p>Erdmann, G. (2011). Decline of democracy: Loss of quality, hybridisation and breakdown of democracy. In <i>Regression of Democracy?</i> (pp. 21-58). VS Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften.</p> <p>Mainwaring, S. & Bizzarro, F. (2019). The fates of third-wave democracies. <i>Journal of Democracy</i>, 30(1), 99-113.</p> <p>Rose, R., & Shin, D. C. (2001). Democratization backwards: The problem of third-wave democracies. <i>British journal of political science</i>, 31(2), 331-354.</p> <p>Hinnebusch, R. (2006). Authoritarian persistence, democratization theory and the Middle East: An overview</p>				

	<p>and critique. <i>Democratization</i>, 13(3), 373- 395.</p> <p>Crawford, G. (2011). <i>Democratization in Africa 1990–2010: an assessment</i>. <i>Democratization</i>, 18(2), 275-310.</p> <p>Beetham, D. (2009). The contradictions of democratization by force: the case of Iraq. <i>Democratization</i>, 16(3), 443-454.</p> <p>Gel'Man, Vladimir. "Post-Soviet transitions and democratization: Towards theory-building." <i>Democratization</i> 10.2 (2003): 87-104.</p> <p>Hale, H. E. (2005). Regime cycles: democracy, autocracy, and revolution in post-Soviet Eurasia. <i>World Politics</i>, 58(1), 133-165.</p> <p>Bingol, Y. (2004). Nationalism and democracy in post-communist Central Asia. <i>Asian Ethnicity</i>, 5(1), 43-60.</p> <p>Toprak, B. (2013). Islam and democracy in Turkey. In <i>Religion and politics in Turkey</i> (pp. 25-44). Routledge.</p> <p>Keyman, E. F., & Kanci, T. (2011). A tale of ambiguity: Citizenship, nationalism and democracy in Turkey. <i>Nations and Nationalism</i>, 17(2), 318-336.</p>	
<p>Teaching Methods and Techniques</p>	<p>Presentations and Response Papers: Students are required to present at least 3 (three) papers from required readings (20-30 minutes) and write at least 5 (five) response papers regarding those readings. Details will be given later in the course. You can write response papers any week.</p> <p>Final exam: There will be a final exam at the end of the semester covering all the readings and the discussions held in the class- open book exam.</p>	
<p>Course Learning Outcomes</p>	<p>1</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p> <p>4</p> <p>5</p> <p>6</p> <p>7</p>	<p>Introducing terms and concepts used to describe democracy</p> <p>Analyzing democracy as a political system and democratic institutions through a systematic comparative method</p> <p>Developing critical thinking</p> <p>Forming basic skills for other courses</p> <p>Improving verbal and oral expression skills</p> <p>Improving academic writing skills</p> <p>Teaching academic reading and ethical research design methods</p>
<p>Program Outcomes Contributed by the Course</p>	<p>Program Outcomes (PO)</p> <p>PO1 Understanding and explaining the concepts and theories of Politics and Social Sciences, Management Sciences, Law Sciences, Urbanization and Environment Problems</p> <p>PO2 To be able to reach and use advanced conceptual, theoretical and empirical knowledge in the light of current academic resources in Political and Social Sciences, Management Sciences, Law Sciences, Urbanization</p> <p>PO4 To be able to interpret national and international current developments by using theoretical knowledge and analytical techniques, and to be able to produce solutions to political and social problems</p> <p>PO6 To be able to follow the theoretical and practical innovations in the areas of politics, administration, law, urbanization and environmental problems at national and international level</p> <p>PO8 To follow the academic developments related to discipline by using the English language at level B1 ("European Language Portfolio Global Scale", Level B1) and to communicate with colleagues</p> <p>PO10 To have an awareness of professional and scientific ethical responsibility.</p> <p>PO11 To be educated as individuals who can contribute to societal development, are reliable and creative, and approach situations and events objectively and critically.</p>	
<p>Contribution of the Course to Field Instruction</p>	<p>The course <i>Contemporary Democracies I</i> provides students with a foundational understanding of the structures, processes, and variations of democratic governance across different countries. By examining key concepts such as representation, participation, political institutions, and policy-making, the course strengthens students' analytical and comparative skills—essential for studying political systems and public administration.</p>	

Topics Covered in the Course	1. Week	Introduction and Review of the Syllabus	
	2. Week	Definition of Democracy & Democratic Transition and Consolidation	
	3. Week	Westminster Model of Democracy and Consensus Model of Democracy	
	4. Week	Modern Democracies & Party systems, Executive- Legislative relations	
	5. Week	Electoral Systems and Parliaments	
	6. Week	Interest Groups	
	7. Week	Presentations and Midterm Week	
	8. Week	Midterm Week	
	9. Week	Political Systems: Democratic vs Authoritarian Systems, and Illiberal Democracies	
	10. Week	Democracy in Crises & Third Wave of Democratization	
	11. Week	Democracy, Media and Technology	
	12. Week	Democracy and Islam	
	13. Week	Democracy in MENA Countries and post-Soviet countries	
	14. Week	Democracy in Türkiye	
	15. Week	General Evaluations and Discussion	
Course Evaluation Criteria	In-Term Studies	Quantity	Percentage %
	Mid-terms		%
	Quizzes		%
	Assignments	3	30%
	Attendance		%
	Practice	5	30%
	Project		%
	Final examination	1	40%
	Total		100%
Disability Policy	<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 (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 local authority of the Faculty of Humanities and Social 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>		