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
PSPA365	POLITICS AND CIVIL SOCIETY	Elective	6	-	September 2026

Instructor of the Course & E-Mail Address	Asst. Prof. Dr. Özge ÖZ DÖM & ozgeozdom@aybu.edu.tr
Office Hours & Office Room	Fridays, 12.00-14.00, Office No: B366
Course Content and Objectives	This course introduces students to the concept of civil society and its relationship with politics, the state, democracy, and citizens. It looks at different types of civil society organizations, such as NGOs, voluntary organizations, interest groups, and social movements. The course also examines how civil society can support political participation, democracy, citizens' rights, and good governance. Students will discuss the role of civil society in different political systems and learn about current issues such as globalization, social media, digitalization, political polarization, populism, and challenges to democracy. The course also considers the strengths and limitations of civil society and its role in contemporary political life. The aim of this course is to help students understand civil society and its relationship with politics, the state, and democracy. The course examines the role of civil society organizations, social movements, interest groups, and citizens in political life. Students will learn how civil society can support democracy, increase political participation, and promote citizens' voices, while also discussing the challenges and limits of civil society in today's world.
Textbook(s)	Almond, G. A. (1958). A comparative study of interest groups and the political process. American Political Science Review, 52(1), 270-282. Al-Ali, N. (2003). Gender and civil society in the Middle East. International Feminist Journal of Politics, 5(2), 216-232. Amenta, E., Caren, N., Chiarello, E., & Su, Y. (2010). The political consequences of social movements. *Annual Review of Sociology, 36*(1), 287-307. Bennett, W. L. (2008). Changing citizenship in the digital age. Calhoun, C. (2011). Civil society and the public sphere. Castells, M. (2008). The new public sphere: Global civil society, communication networks, and global governance. *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, 616*(1), 78-93. Chambers, S. (2002). A critical theory of civil society. *Alternative Conceptions of Civil Society, 1*, 90. Clark, J. D. (2014). Ethical globalization: The dilemmas and challenges of internationalizing civil society. In *Global Citizen Action* (pp. 17-28). Routledge. Cohen, J. L., & Arato, A. (1992). *Civil Society and Political Theory*. MIT Press. Diamond, L. (1994). Rethinking civil society: Toward democratic consolidation. Journal of democracy, 5(3), 4-17.

	Diani, M. (2011). Social movements and collective action. *The SAGE Handbook of Social Network Analysis*, 223-235. Dryzek, J. S. (2012). Global civil society: The progress of post-Westphalian politics. Annual Review of Political Science, 15(1), 101-119. Edwards, M. (2009). *Civil Society*. Polity. Einhorn, B., & Sever, C. (2003). Gender and civil society in Central and Eastern Europe. *International Feminist Journal of Politics, 5*(2), 163-190. Eto, M. (2012). Reframing civil society from gender perspectives: A model of a multi-layered seamless world. Journal of Civil Society, 8(2), 101-121. Fischer, M. (2006). *Civil Society in Conflict Transformation: Ambivalence, Potentials and Challenges.* Foley, M. W., & Edwards, B. (1996). The paradox of civil society. *Journal of Democracy, 7*(3), 38-52. Habermas, J. (1984). The theory of communicative action, volume I. Boston: Beacon, 57. Head, B. W. (2011). Why not ask them? Mapping and promoting youth participation. *Children and Youth Services Review, 33*(4), 541-547. Mercer, C. (2002). NGOs, civil society and democratization: a critical review of the literature. Progress in development studies, 2(1), 5-22. Montalvan Castilla, J. E., & Pursiainen, C. (2019). Cyberspace effects on civil society: The ultimate game-changer or not? *Journal of Civil Society, 15*(4), 392-411. Nash, K. (2009). Between citizenship and human rights. *Sociology, 43*(6), 1067-1083. Polletta, F., & Jasper, J. M. (2001). Collective identity and social movements. Annual review of Sociology, 27(1), 283-305. Price, R. (2003). Transnational civil society and advocacy in world politics. World politics, 55(4), 579-606. Rojak, J. A., Khayru, R. K., & Darmawan, D. (2021). Citizens' political participation in electoral democracy and the dynamics of civil society movements. *Studi Ilmu Sosial Indonesia, 1*(1), 161-176. Toepler, S., Zimmer, A., Fröhlich, C., & Obuch, K. (2020). The changing space for NGOs: Civil society in authoritarian and hybrid regimes. *VOLUNTAS: International Journal of Voluntary and Nonprofit Organizations, 31*(4), 649-662. Tsutsui, K., & Wotipka, C. M. (2004). Global civil society and the international human rights movement: Citizen participation in human rights international nongovernmental organizations. Social Forces, 83(2), 587-620.
Teaching Methods and Techniques	Lecturing, Inquiry-based learning, Question- answer, Debate, Presentation

Course Learning Outcomes

1	Information	Explains the main concepts and theories of civil society
2	Information	Explains the relationship between civil society, the state, politics, and democracy.
3	Skill	Identifies different forms of civil society, including NGOs, interest groups, and social movements.
4	Competence	Evaluates the opportunities and challenges faced by civil society in contemporary societies.
5	Competence	Assesses the effects of globalization, digitalization, and social media on civil society and political participation.

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

The course contributes to the field by providing students with knowledge of civil society and its relationship with the state, democracy, and political participation. It helps students understand the role of civil society organizations, social movements, and citizens in political and social processes. The course also enables students to analyze contemporary political issues through theoretical approaches and case studies while developing their critical thinking, research, and analytical skills.

Course Learning Outcomes Contribution to Learning Outcomes

Contribution scale: 1 very slightly to 5 very significant

CLO	In/Sk/Co	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	P8	P9
1	In1	4	5	4	4	2	2	3	2	3
2	In2	4	4	3	3	2	1	3	2	3
3	Sk1	3	4	3	3	2	2	3	2	3
4	Sk2	4	4	4	4	2	1	3	3	3
5	Co1	3	4	3	5	2	2	2	2	3
6	Co2	4	4	3	4	2	2	4	2	2

Topics Covered in the Course

1. Week	Introduction to the Course, Key Concepts, and the Importance of Civil Society	Syllabus
2. Week	Definition and Development of the Concept of Civil Society	Chambers, S. (2002). Cohen, J. L., & Arato, A. (1992). Habermas, J. (1984).
3. Week	The Relationship of Civil Society with the State and Democracy	Foley, M. W., & Edwards, B. (1996). Diamond, L. (1994). Mercer, C. (2002).
4. Week	Public Sphere, Citizenship, and Political Communication	Castells, M. (2008). Calhoun, C. (2011).
5. Week	Civil Society Organizations, Interest Groups and Political Participation	Rojak, J. A., Khayru, R. K., & Darmawan, D. (2021). Almond, G. A. (1958).
6. Week	Social Movements and Collective Action	Diani, M. (2011). Polletta, F., & Jasper, J. M. (2001).
7. Week	Civil Society, Human Rights and Citizenship	Nash, K. (2009). Tsutsui, K., & Wotipka, C. M. (2004).
8. Week	Midterm Week	-
9. Week	Civil Society in the Digital Age	Bennett, W. L. (2008). Montalvan Castilla, J. E., & Pursiainen, C. (2019).
10. Week	Gender and civil society	Einhorn, B., & Sever, C. (2003). Al-Ali, N. (2003). Eto, M. (2012).
11. Week	Youth and Civil Society Participation	Head, B. W. (2011).
12. Week	Civil Society in Authoritarian and Hybrid Regimes	Toepler, S., Zimmer, A., Fröhlich, C., & Obuch, K. (2020).
13. Week	Challenges to Civil Society	Fischer, M. (2006). Clark, J. D. (2014).
14. Week	Civil Society in Contemporary Politics: Challenges and Future Prospects	Dryzek, J. S. (2012). Price, R. (2003).
15. Week	General Evaluation and Discussion	-

Course Evaluation Criteria

In-Term Studies	**Quantity**	**Percentage %**
Mid-terms	1	%25
Quizzes	5	%10
Assignments (presentation)	1	%15
Attendance	1	%10
Practice	-	%
Project	-	%
Final examination	1	%40
Total	**10**	**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 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.
Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools Usage Policy	AI tools may be used to understand course materials, develop ideas, and brainstorm. However, submitting AI-generated content without proper citation or without the student's own contribution is considered an academic violation. AI-generated content should be critically evaluated, and the final work must reflect the student's own academic contribution.