

**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
PSPA 211	Human Rights	Compulsory			
Instructor of the Course & E-Mail Address	GÜLİZ DİNÇ gdinc@aybu.edu.tr				
Office Hours & Office Room	Wednesdays 13.00-15.00 @ B #361				
Course Content and Objectives	<p>Course Content: This course provides a critical introduction to human rights theory, institutions, and contemporary challenges. Rather than treating human rights as uncontested universal truths, we examine the ongoing debates about their foundations, scope, and effectiveness. Students will engage with fundamental questions: Are human rights truly universal or culturally specific? How do we balance individual rights with collective needs? What are the limits of international human rights law? Why do human rights systems often fail, and what alternatives exist?</p> <p>The course is structured in two interconnected parts. Part I explores foundational concepts and major theoretical debates, including critiques of human rights as Western imperialism and the tension between universalism and cultural relativism. Part II examines how these theoretical debates play out in contemporary challenges, from digital surveillance to refugee protection to economic development.</p>				
Textbook(s)	<p>Michael Goodhart (ed.), <i>Human Rights: Politics and Practice</i>. Oxford University Press, 3rd edition, 2016.</p> <p>Donnelly, Jack. <i>Universal Human Rights in Theory and Practice</i>. 3rd edition. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2013.</p>				
Teaching Methods and Techniques	Writing assignments, class discussion, formal debates and in-class exams will be used.				
Course Learning Outcomes	1	Develop critical analytical skills to evaluate human rights claims and institutions			
	2	Understand major theoretical debates in human rights scholarship			
	3	Analyze the gap between human rights ideals and political realities			
	4	Examine human rights from multiple cultural and theoretical perspectives			
	5	Apply human rights frameworks to contemporary global challenges			
	6	Improve written and verbal English skills through structured discussions and assignments			
Program Outcomes Contributed by the Course	Program Outcomes (PO)				
	P1	To be able to deeply comprehend and explain the concepts and theories of Political and Social Sciences, Administrative Sciences, Legal Sciences, Urbanization and Environmental Problems.			
	P2	To be able to access and use advanced conceptual, theoretical and empirical knowledge in the light of current academic resources in the fields of Political and Social Sciences, Administrative Sciences, Legal Sciences, Urbanization and Environmental Problems.			
	P4	Ability to interpret current national and international developments and develop solutions to political and social problems by using the theoretical knowledge and analysis techniques acquired.			
	P6	Ability to follow theoretical and practical innovations in the fields of politics, administration, law, urbanization and environmental problems at national and international levels.			
	P7	To be able to inform people and institutions working in the fields of politics, management, law, urbanization and environmental issues, and to convey their thoughts and solution suggestions for problems in written and oral form, supported by quantitative and qualitative data.			
	P8	To be able to follow academic developments in the discipline and communicate with colleagues using English at B1 level (“European Language Portfolio Global Scale”, Level B1)			
	P9	To have basic knowledge of other relevant social science disciplines and to be able to utilize them in the discipline of political science and public administration.			
	P10	To have awareness of professional and scientific ethical responsibility			

	P11	To grow up as individuals who can contribute to social development, are reliable, creative, and look at situations and events objectively and critically.	
Contribution of the Course to Field Instruction	The students will be able to gain theoretical knowledge on human rights as well as how they can be protected in practice based on existing national and international institutional structures.		
Topics Covered in the Course	1. Week	Introduction	
	2. Week	Origin and Evolution of Human Rights	
	3. Week	Universalism vs. Cultural Relativism Debate	
	4. Week	Civil-Political vs. Economic-Social-Cultural Rights	
	5. Week	Individual vs. Collective Group Rights	
	6. Week	Human Rights Institutions and Enforcement	
	7. Week	Critiques and Alternatives	
	8. Week	Midterm Week	
	9. Week	Sovereignty vs. Human Rights Intervention	
	10. Week	Minority Rights and Group Protection	
	11. Week	Refugees and Human Rights	
	12. Week	Gender and Human Rights	
	13. Week	Genocide	
	14. Week	Transitional Justice and Post-Conflict Societies	
	15. Week	Final Exam Review	
Course Evaluation Criteria	In-Term Studies	Quantity	Percentage %
	Mid-terms	1	%30
	Quizzes		%
	Assignments	1	%30
	Attendance	1	%10
	Practice		%
	Project		%
	Final examination	1	%30
	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 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.		