

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
PSPA211	Human Rights	Compulsory	5	-	September 2026
Instructor of the Course & E-Mail Address	Assist. Prof. Güliz Dinç (gdinc@aybu.edu.tr)				
Office Hours & Office Room	Thursdays, 10.00-12.00, Office No: B361				
Course Content and Objectives	The course offers theoretical and conceptual tools for analyzing human rights norms and institutions. Students will take up the central debates over the foundations, scope and effectiveness of human rights (universalism versus cultural relativism, civil-political versus economic-social rights, individual versus group rights) and will examine how the international and regional human rights system operates and how international obligations are transferred into domestic law and administrative practice. Türkiye's relationship with this system is treated at the institutional level, through primary documents and comparative cases. The primary objective of this course is to help students develop a critical perspective on human rights theory, institutions and contemporary challenges. Students will come to see human rights not as settled universal truths but as the subject of an ongoing debate over their foundations and scope, and will be able to explain the gap between international norms and political practice through the mechanisms of compliance, implementation and derogation. Through comparative examination of contemporary challenges such as security policies, refugee protection, transitional justice and gender, students will strengthen their skills in document analysis and in independent, ethically responsible research.				
Textbook(s)	Ackerly, Brooke. "Feminist Approaches," in Michael Goodhart (ed.), <i>Human Rights: Politics and Practice</i>, 3rd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016, Chapter 2, pp. 21–38. Amnesty International. <i>Choice and Prejudice: Discrimination against Muslims in Europe — A Summary</i>. 2012. https://www.amnesty.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/eur010022012en.pdf An-Na'im, Abdullahi Ahmed. "Islam and Human Rights: Beyond the Universality Debate." <i>Proceedings of the Annual Meeting (American Society of International Law)</i> 94 (2000): 95–101. Constitution of the Republic of Türkiye, Article 90. Official English translation. https://www.anayasa.gov.tr/media/7258/anayasa_eng.pdf Constitutional Court of the Republic of Türkiye. <i>Individual Application</i>. https://www.anayasa.gov.tr/en/individual-application Council of Europe. <i>European Convention on Human Rights</i> (1950), Articles 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, and Protocol No. 1, Article 2. https://www.echr.coe.int/documents/d/echr/convention_ENG Council of Europe / European Court of Human Rights. <i>Freedom of Expression — Thematic Factsheet</i>, pp. 2–9. https://rm.coe.int/thematic-factsheet-freedom-expression-eng/1680a235d0 Donnelly, Jack. "Economic Rights and Group Rights," in <i>Universal Human Rights in Theory and Practice</i>, 3rd ed. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2013, Chapter 3, pp. 40–45. Donnelly, Jack. "International Human Rights Regimes," in <i>Universal Human Rights in Theory and Practice</i>, 3rd ed. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2013, Chapter 11, pp. 161–196. Donnelly, Jack. "The Relative Universality of Human Rights," in <i>Universal Human Rights in Theory and Practice</i>, 3rd ed. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2013, Chapter 6, pp. 93–105. Equal Rights Trust. <i>Case Summary: Opuz v. Turkey (ECtHR, 2009)</i>. 2010. https://www.equalrightstrust.org/ertdocumentbank/opuz%20v%20turkey%20case%20summary%20erl%20edit.pdf European Court of Human Rights, Knowledge Sharing Platform. <i>Mass Surveillance</i> (key theme guide), selected sections. https://ks.echr.coe.int/documents/d/echr-ks/mass-surveillance European Court of Human Rights, Press Unit. <i>Factsheet: Derogation in Time of Emergency</i>. https://www.echr.coe.int/documents/d/echr/fs_derogation_eng				

	European Court of Human Rights, Press Unit. <i>Türkiye — Country Profile</i>. https://www.echr.coe.int/d/cp_turkey_eng Goodhart, Michael. "Introduction," in Michael Goodhart (ed.), <i>Human Rights: Politics and Practice</i>, 3rd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016, pp. 1–18. Goodhart, Michael (ed.). "Poverty and Human Rights," in <i>Human Rights: Politics and Practice</i>, 3rd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016, Chapter 11, pp. 239–257. International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ). <i>What is Transitional Justice?</i> https://www.ictj.org/what-transitional-justice Loescher, Gil. "Human Rights and Forced Migration," in Michael Goodhart (ed.), <i>Human Rights: Politics and Practice</i>, 3rd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016, Chapter 18, pp. 398–415. Mutua, Makau. "Savages, Victims, and Saviors: The Metaphor of Human Rights." <i>Harvard International Law Journal</i> 42, no. 1 (2001): 201–245. OHCHR. <i>Frequently Asked Questions on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</i> (Fact Sheet No. 33). Geneva: UN OHCHR, 2008, Questions 1–7, pp. 1–15. https://www.ohchr.org/en/publications/fact-sheets/fact-sheet-no-33-frequently-asked-questions-economic-social-and-cultural OHCHR. <i>The Right to Privacy in the Digital Age: Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights</i>, A/HRC/51/17 (2022), Summary and Conclusions. https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/51/17 OHCHR. <i>30 Articles on the 30 Articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights</i>. 2018. https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2018/11/30-articles-30-articles-universal-declaration-human-rights OHCHR. <i>Universal Declaration of Human Rights</i>, Articles 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 13, 18, 19, 23, 26. https://www.ohchr.org/en/universal-declaration-of-human-rights OHCHR. <i>Universal Periodic Review — Türkiye</i>. https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/tr-index OHCHR. <i>What are human rights?</i> https://www.ohchr.org/en/what-are-human-rights Quinn, Joanna R. "Transitional Justice," in Michael Goodhart (ed.), <i>Human Rights: Politics and Practice</i>, 3rd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016, Chapter 22, pp. 474–491. South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission. <i>Final Report</i>. 1998. Vol. 1, Chapter 4 "The Mandate" (sections 19–23, 32–35) and Chapter 5 "Concepts and Principles" (pp. 106–107, 130–134); Vol. 6, Section 5, Chapter 2 "Holding the State Accountable" (pp. 613–616) and Chapter 7 "Recommendations" (pp. 726–728). https://www.justice.gov.za/trc/report/ UN General Assembly. <i>Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities</i> (1992), Articles 1–4. https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/declaration-rights-persons-belonging-national-or-ethnic-religious-and-linguistic-minorities UN General Assembly. <i>International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights</i> (1966), including Article 4. https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-covenant-civil-and-political-rights UN General Assembly. <i>International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</i> (1966). https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-covenant-economic-social-and-cultural-rights UN Human Rights Council. <i>Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Türkiye</i>, A/HRC/60/15 (2025), Section II "Conclusions and/or recommendations." https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/60/15 UN Women. <i>Facts and Figures: Ending Violence Against Women</i>. https://www.unwomen.org/en/articles/facts-and-figures/facts-and-figures-ending-violence-against-women UNHCR. <i>Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2025</i>. 2026. Key Figures; Executive Summary; Regional Overview: Europe. https://www.unhcr.org/global-trends UNHCR. <i>The 1951 Refugee Convention — Overview</i>, Articles 1, 3, 16, 17, 22, 23, 26, 31, 32, 33. https://www.unhcr.org/about-unhcr/overview/1951-refugee-convention
Teaching Methods and Techniques	The course is conducted through lectures, the analysis of primary documents and cases, class discussions, and short in-class written exercises. The document analysis assignment combines independent preparation at home with supervised analytical writing in class.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)	1	Information	Analyze the relationships between the core concepts, theories and approaches of human rights (e.g., natural rights, universalism, cultural relativism, critical and postcolonial approaches).								
	2	Information	Examine the structure and functioning of the international and regional human rights system (UN treaty bodies, the Universal Periodic Review, the European Court of Human Rights) and Türkiye's engagement with it within the context of its administrative-constitutional structure.								
	3	Skill	Analyze the gap between human rights norms and political practice within the framework of compliance and enforcement debates, tracing how international obligations and domestic legislation are transferred into administrative implementation through concrete cases (e.g., refugee rights, transitional justice).								
	4	Skill	Compare the dynamics (actors, institutions, ideas) of contemporary rights controversies involving religion, identity, nationalism and ethnicity, and evaluate their reflections on politics and society at national and global levels.								
	5	Competence	Discuss the impacts of state practice, security policies and emergency regimes on the enjoyment of human rights in Türkiye and comparable cases from a critical perspective.								
	6	Competence	Evaluate a current human rights issue in accordance with academic and ethical standards, through independently conducted research based on scholarly sources and primary documents (e.g., UPR reports, court judgments, NGO reports).								
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.									
Contribution of the Course to Field Instruction	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.										
	This course holds a central place in the curriculum, connecting the conceptual and theoretical foundations of political science with the study of international institutions, constitutional order and state–society relations. It equips students to analyze how international human rights norms are translated, contested or resisted in domestic law and practice, and to evaluate rights controversies involving religion, identity and security on a theoretical and evidence-based footing. Its sustained attention to Türkiye's engagement with the international human rights system, alongside comparable cases, develops the analytical and ethical judgment that graduates apply in public administration, the judiciary and legal professions, international organizations, civil society organizations, and academic research.										
	Course Learning Outcomes (CLO) Contribution to Program Outcomes										
	CLO	In/Sk/Co	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	P8	P9
	1	In1	5	4	2	2	1	1	1	1	1
	2	In2	2	1	4	5	1	3	1	1	1
	3	Sk3	2	1	3	4	1	4	2	1	2
	4	Sk4	2	5	3	4	1	1	1	1	2

	5	Co5	2	2	5	3	1	4	1	1	2	
	6	Co6	3	2	2	3	1	2	3	1	4	
Contribution 1: Very Slight, 2: Slight, 3: Moderate, 4: Significant, 5: Very Significant.												
Topics Covered in the Course	Weeks	Topics									Reading Materials	
	1. Week	Course Introduction: What are Human Rights?									Syllabus	
	2. Week	Origins and Evolution of Human Rights									Goodhart (2016), Introduction; UDHR (1948), selected articles; OHCHR, <i>What are human rights?</i>	
	3. Week	The Universalism vs. Cultural Relativism Debate									Donnelly (2013), ch. 6; An-Na'im (2000); Amnesty International (2012)	
	4. Week	Civil and Political vs. Economic, Social and Cultural Rights									Goodhart (2016), ch. 11; ICCPR (1966); ICESCR (1966)	
	5. Week	Individual vs. Collective Rights: Groups, Minorities and Ethnicity									Donnelly (2013), ch. 3 (pp. 40–45); OHCHR Fact Sheet No. 33 (2008), Q1–7; UN Declaration on Minorities (1992), arts. 1–4	
	6. Week	Republic Day (No lecture)										
	7. Week	Critiques of Human Rights and Midterm Review									Mutua (2001), Introduction and Part I	
	8. Week	Midterm week (No lecture)										
	9. Week	The International Human Rights System: Treaty Bodies and the Universal Periodic Review									Donnelly (2013), ch. 11; UN Human Rights Council (2025), A/HRC/60/15, sec. II; OHCHR, UPR Türkiye	
	10. Week	From International Obligation to Domestic Practice: the ECHR and Türkiye									ECHR (1950), selected articles; Constitution of Türkiye, art. 90; Constitutional Court, <i>Individual Application</i> ; ECtHR (2026), <i>Türkiye Country Profile</i> ; Council of Europe, <i>Freedom of Expression Factsheet</i>	
	11. Week	Security, Surveillance and Emergency Powers									ECHR art. 15; ICCPR art. 4; ECtHR, <i>Derogation in Time of Emergency</i> factsheet; ECtHR, <i>Mass Surveillance</i> guide (selected sections); OHCHR (2022), A/HRC/51/17	
	12. Week	Refugees and Human Rights									Loescher (2016); UNHCR (2026), <i>Global Trends</i> , selected sections; 1951 Refugee Convention, selected articles	
	13. Week	Transitional Justice and Post-Conflict Societies									Quinn (2016); South African TRC (1998), selected excerpts; ICTJ, <i>What is Transitional Justice?</i>	
	14. Week	Gender and Human Rights									Ackerly (2016); Equal Rights Trust (2010), <i>Opuz v. Turkey</i>	
	15. Week	The Future of Human Rights and Review for Final Exam										
Course Evaluation Criteria	In-Term Studies				Quantity				Percentage %			
	Mid-terms				1				%30			
	Quizzes								%			
	Assignments				1				%20			
	Attendance								%			
	Practice				5				%10			
	Project								%			
	Final examination				1				%40			
	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 consists of a midterm examination, a final examination, short in-class exercises, and a two-stage individual document analysis assignment. The first stage of the assignment is a document pack prepared at home and annotated by hand, and the second stage is an analytical essay written in class using only that pack. Students may use generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Claude) as study aids to understand course materials, review topics, locate the primary documents for the assignment, and prepare for examinations. The document pack must consist of printed primary documents with handwritten notes on them. Typed or AI-generated summaries are not accepted as a pack. Since all assessment tasks other than the document pack are conducted in class under supervision, the use of AI tools or any smart device during these tasks is strictly prohibited and will be treated as a direct violation of academic integrity.
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