

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
PSPA321	The State and the Public Sphere	Elective	6	-	September 2026
Instructor of the Course & E-Mail Address	Assist. Prof. Sıla Demirörs (silademirors@aybu.edu.tr)				
Office Hours & Office Room	Wednesdays 14:00-16:00, Office No:				
Course Content and Objectives	The course begins with the main methodological approaches in the social sciences. It then examines liberal, state-centered institutionalist, and marxist approaches to the state. In the final part of the course, state–civil society relations are examined from a historical perspective, including debates on the uniqueness of the West and the East and state–class relations in the neoliberal era. Throughout the course, students are encouraged to compare different theoretical approaches and evaluate them critically. The primary aim of the course is to enable students to understand and analyze the main theoretical approaches to the state. The course examines state–society relations, different forms of the state, and transformations of the state across different historical, political, social, and economic contexts.				
Textbook(s)	Hollis, M. (1994) The Philosophy of Social Science, Cambridge UP. Lukes S. (1970) "Methodological Individualism Reconsidered", Palgrave Macmillan. Weber, M. (1949) The Methodology of the Social Sciences, Free Press. Sayer, A. (2000). Realism and Social Science, Sage. Sayer, A. (1992) Method in Social Science: A Realist Approach, Routledge. Dunleavy, P. & B. O'Leary (1987) Theories of the State, Macmillan. Gray, J. (1995) Liberalism (Second Edition). North, D. (1995) The New Institutional Economics and Third World Development, Routledge. Plant, R. (2009) The Neoliberal State, Oxford UP. Shepsle, K. (2006) Oxford Handbook of Political Institutions, Oxford UP. Wood, E. M. (2012) Liberty and Property: A Social History of Western Political Thought from Renaissance to Enlightenment, Verso. Jessop, B. (2007) State Power: A Strategic-Relational Approach, Polity. Mann, M. (1984) "The Autonomous Power of the State: Its Origins, Mechanisms and Results", Archives Europeennes de Sociologie, Vol. 25, No: 2. Migdal, J.S. (1997) State in Society, Cambridge UP. Remmer, K. (1997) "The Resurgence of Institutional Analysis" World Politics, 50/1,34-61. Skocpol, T. (1985) Bringing Back the State In, Cambridge UP. Carnoy, M. (1984) The State and Political Theory, Princeton UP. Holloway, J. & Picciotto, S. (1977) "Capital, Crisis and the State" Capital & Class, 1(2), 76-101. Miliband, R. (1983) "State Power and Class Interests", New Left Review, 138. Poulantzas, N. (1975) Fascism and Dictatorship, London: NLB. Poulantzas, N. (1978) State, Power, Socialism, London: Verso. Wood, E. M. (1995) Democracy Against Capitalism, Cambridge UP. Anderson, P. (1974) "Absolutist State in the West", in Lineages of the Absolutist State, London: Verso. Beetham, D. (1991) "Max Weber and the Legitimacy of the Modern State", Analyse & Kritik, 13: 34-45. Casanova, J. (1994) "Secularization, Religion and the Modern World" in Public Religions in Modern World, Chicago. Mooers, C. (1991) The Making of Bourgeois Europe, London: Verso. Wood, E. M. (1991) The Pristine Culture of Capitalism, London: Verso. Bromley, S. (1994) Rethinking Middle East Politics, Oxford: Polity Press. İnalçık, H. (1992) "Comments on 'Sultanism': Max Weber's Typification of the Ottoman Polity" Princeton Papers in Near Eastern Studies. Mardin, Ş. (1969) "Power, Civil Society and Culture in the Ottoman Empire" Comparative Studies in Society and History, Vol. 11, No. 3, 258-281. Mardin, Ş. (1995) "Civil Society and Islam", in J. Hall (ed.) Civil Society, 279-300.				

	Turner, B. (1994) <i>Orientalism, Postmodernism & Globalism</i>, Routledge, 20-35. Ayers, A. J., & Saad-Filho, A. (2015). Democracy against neoliberalism: Paradoxes, limitations, transcendence. <i>Critical Sociology</i>, 41(4-5), 597-618. Boffo, M. et al. (2018) "Neoliberal Capitalism: The Authoritarian Turn", <i>Socialist Register</i> 2019.	
Teaching Methods and Techniques	The course is conducted through lectures, discussion of key readings, and comparative evaluation of different theoretical approaches. Students are expected to participate actively in conceptual and theoretical discussions based on the assigned readings.	
Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)	1	Explains and evaluates the main assumptions, concepts, and modes of explanation of major methodological approaches in the social sciences as a basis for understanding the different methodological foundations of theories of the state.
	2	Explains and discusses the main concepts and arguments of liberal approaches to the state.
	3	Compares, discusses, and analyzes accounts of state autonomy, state capacity, and state–society relations in state-centered institutionalist approaches.
	4	Discusses and analyzes Marxist accounts of state autonomy, class relations, hegemony, civil society, and different forms of the state.
	5	Analyzes and critically evaluates explanations of historical forms of the state, such as absolutist and patrimonial states, within debates on the historical development of state–society relations and the East–West distinction.
	6	Analyzes and evaluates different theoretical approaches to the state and its forms and transformations across different historical and political-economic contexts.
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 State and the Public Sphere course strengthens the program outcome of defining and interpreting the fundamental concepts, theories, and approaches of political science and public administration by providing students with a conceptual grounding in theories of the state. The capacity to theoretically evaluate the historical and political-economic transformations of the state makes a strong contribution to the program outcomes of assessing national and global political developments within their historical contexts and explaining the relationships between economic policies and political-administrative decisions. Evaluations concerning political ideologies' conceptions of the state support the program dimension of analyzing the intellectual foundations and political implications of ideologies, while historical examinations of Ottoman state–society relations support the dimension of understanding the historical background of state–society relations in Türkiye. The ability to evaluate the assumptions and modes of explanation of different methodological approaches also contributes to the program outcome related to research methods at the level of understanding the methodological foundations of scientific inference.	

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO) Contribution to Programme Outcomes									
Contribution: 1: Very Slight 2: Slight 3: Moderate 4: Significant 5: Very Significant									
	P01	P02	P03	P04	P05	P06	P07	P08	P09
CLO	5	4	4	5	5	2	3	1	2
1	5	2	1	2	1	1	3	1	2
2	5	5	2	4	5	2	2	1	2
3	5	2	3	5	3	1	2	1	2
4	5	5	3	4	5	1	2	1	2
5	5	3	5	5	4	1	2	1	2
6	5	4	4	5	5	2	2	1	2

Topics Covered in the Course	Weeks	Topics	Reading Materials
	1. Week	Introduction to the Course	Hollis, M. (1994) "Positive Science: The Empiricist Way", The Philosophy of Social Science, Cambridge UP, 40-51. Lukes S. (1970) "Methodological Individualism Reconsidered", Palgrave Macmillan, 76-88.
	2. Week	Alternative Methodological Approaches – Part I	Hollis, M. (1994) "Positive Science: The Empiricist Way", The Philosophy of Social Science, Cambridge UP, 40-51. Lukes S. (1970) "Methodological Individualism Reconsidered", Palgrave Macmillan, 76-88.
	3. Week	Alternative Methodological Approaches – Part II	Weber, M. (1949) The Methodology of the Social Sciences, Free Press, 72-73; 79-94. Sayer, A. (2000). Realism and Social Science, Sage, 10-22. Sayer, A. (1992) "Theory and method I: abstraction, structure and cause" Method in Social Science: A Realist Approach, Routledge, 85-117.
	4. Week	Liberal Approaches to the State – Part I	Dunleavy, P. & B. O'Leary (1987) "The New Right", Theories of the State, Macmillan, 72-77, 87-95. Gray, J. (1995) Liberalism, 71-77; 85-96. North, D. (1995) The New Institutional Economics and Third World Development, Routledge.
	5. Week	Liberal Approaches to the State – Part II	Plant, R. (2009) The Neoliberal State, Oxford UP, 5-28. Shepsle, K. (2006) "Rational Choice Institutionalism" in Oxford Handbook of Political Institutions, 23-38. Wood, E. M. (2012) Liberty and Property: A Social History of Western Political Thought from Renaissance to Enlightenment, Verso, 240-278.
	6. Week	State-Centred Institutional Approaches – Part I	Jessop, B. (2007) State Power: A Strategic-Relational Approach, Polity, 54-65. Mann, M. (1984) "The Autonomous Power of the State: Its Origins, Mechanisms and Results" Migdal, J.S. (1997) "Studying the State", State in Society, Cambridge UP, 231-264.
	7. Week	State-Centred Institutional Approaches – Part II	Remmer, K. (1997) "The Resurgence of Institutional Analysis" World Politics, 50/1,34-61. Skocpol, T. (1985) "Bringing the State Back In: Strategies of Analysis in Current Research" P. Evans, et al. (eds), Cambridge
	8. Week	Midterm week (No lecture)	
	9. Week	Marxist Approaches to the State	Carnoy, M. (1984) "Gramsci and the State", Princeton UP, 65-88. Holloway, J. & Picciotto, S. (1977) "Capital, Crisis and the State" Capital & Class, 1(2). Jessop, B. (2007) State Power: A Strategic-Relational Approach, Polity, 83-100. Miliband, R. (1983) "State Power and Class Interests", New Left Review, 138. Poulantzas, N. (1975) Fascism and Dictatorship, London: NLB, 299-335. Poulantzas, N. (1978) State, Power, Socialism, London: Verso, 11-27. Wood, E. M. (1995) Democracy Against

			Capitalism, Cambridge UP, 76-107.
	10. Week	State and Civil Society in Historical Perspective I: Uniqueness of the West?	Anderson, P. (1974) "Absolutist State in the West", London: Verso, 15-42. Beetham, D. (1991) "Max Weber and the Legitimacy of the Modern State", Analyse & Kritik, 13: 34-45. Casanova, J. (1994) "Secularization, Religion and the Modern World" in Public Religions in Modern World, Chicago.
	11. Week	State and Civil Society in Historical Perspective II: Uniqueness of the West?	Mooers, C. (1991) The Making of Bourgeois Europe, London: Verso, 45-97. Wood, E. M. (1991) The Pristine Culture of Capitalism, London: Verso, 1-19, 81-106. Wood, E. M. (1995) Democracy Against Capitalism, Cambridge UP, 238-263.
	12. Week	State and Civil Society in Historical Perspective III: Uniqueness of the East?	Bromley, S. (1994) Rethinking Middle East Politics, Oxford: Polity Press, 6-45. İnalçık, H. (1992) "Comments on 'Sultanism': Max Weber's Typification of the Ottoman Polity" Princeton Papers in Near Eastern Studies, 49-72. Mardin, Ş. (1969) "Power, Civil Society and Culture in the Ottoman Empire" Comparative Studies in Society and History, Vol. 11, No. 3, 258-281.
	13. Week	State and Civil Society in Historical Perspective IV: Uniqueness of the East?	Mardin, Ş. (1995) "Civil Society and Islam", in J. Hall (ed.) Civil Society, 279-300. Turner, B. (1994) Orientalism, Postmodernism & Globalism, Routledge, 20-35.
	14. Week	State and Class Relations in the Neoliberal Era	Ayers, A. J., & Saad-Filho, A. (2015). Democracy against neoliberalism: Paradoxes, limitations, transcendence. Critical Sociology, 41(4-5), 597-618. Boffo, M. et al. (2018) "Neoliberal Capitalism: The Authoritarian Turn", Socialist Register 2019.
	15. Week	General Evaluation and Conclusion	
Course Evaluation Criteria	In-Term Studies	Quantity	Percentage %
	Mid-terms	1	%40
	Quizzes		%
	Assignments		%
	Attendance	1	%10
	Practice		%
	Project		%
	Final examination	1	%50
	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 is based on one midterm examination, one final examination, and attendance and class participation; therefore, no assignments, projects, or written work are required. Students are welcome to use generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Claude) as supplementary "study assistants" to help understand course materials, review complex topics, and prepare for exams. However, since all examinations will be conducted in-class (proctored), the use of AI tools or any smart devices during exams is strictly prohibited and will be treated as a direct violation of academic integrity (cheating).		