

**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
PSPA451	Political Parties in Comparative Perspective	Elective	6	-	01.09.2025
<b>Instructor of the Course &amp; E-Mail Address</b>	Dr Muhterem Merve Altıntaş & mmaltintas@aybu.edu.tr				
<b>Office Hours &amp; Office Room</b>	Thursday, 13.00 – 14.00; or by appointment & B370				
<b>Course Content and Objectives</b>	This course examines political parties from a comparative perspective, focusing on their origins, functions, and roles in democratic systems. It provides an overview of party systems, their evolution and change, as well as the contemporary challenges and trends shaping party politics today.				
<b>Textbook(s)</b>	Richard S. Katz and William Crotty (eds.) (2006) <i>Handbook of Party Politics</i> . London: Sage Publications.				
<b>Teaching Methods and Techniques</b>	The course is primarily structured around student presentations, followed by class-wide discussions on the topics. This approach is designed to enhance students' critical thinking and discussion skills.				
<b>Course Learning Outcomes</b>	1	To explain the historical origins, development processes, and roles of political parties in democratic governance.			
	2	To analyze and compare party systems and organizational models across different countries.			
	3	To assess the impact of parties on social structures, ideological families, and public policies.			
	4	To engage in critical discussions on contemporary political trends and the future of party politics.			
	5	To develop analytical thinking, research, and academic communication skills through student presentations and class discussions.			
<b>Program Outcomes Contributed by the Course</b>	<b>Program Outcomes (PO)</b>				
	PO1	Understanding and explaining the concepts and theories of Politics and Social Sciences			
	PO2	Being able to reach and use advanced conceptual, theoretical and empirical knowledge in the light of current academic resources in Political and Social Sciences			
	PO3	Being able to collect data, analyse it and use it in scientific evaluation by using the research methods of Political Science and Public Administration			
	PO4	Being 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			
	PO6	Being able to follow the theoretical and practical innovations in politics			
PO8	Being able to follow the academic developments related to discipline				
<b>Contribution of the Course to Field Instruction</b>	Students will develop a solid understanding of the origins, functions, and roles of political parties, enabling them to analyze how parties influence social structures, cleavages, and policy outcomes across different democratic contexts.				
<b>Topics Covered in the Course</b>	1. Week	Introduction to the Course			
	2. Week	What is a Political Party?			
	3. Week	Origins of Parties: Social and Cultural Explanations			
	4. Week	Origins of Parties: Institutional and Organizational Explanations			
	5. Week	Party in Democratic Theory			
	6. Week	Party Systems			
	7. Week	Party System Change			
	8. Week	Midterm Week			
	9. Week	Party Patronage			
	10. Week	Clientelism			

	11. Week	Party and Social Structure	
	12. Week	Party Families and Ideas	
	13. Week	Contemporary Trends in Parties: Populism	
	14. Week	Contemporary Trends in Parties: Far Right	
	15. Week	Review of the Course	
<b>Course Evaluation Criteria</b>	<b>In-Term Studies</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Percentage %</b>
	Mid-terms		%
	Quizzes		%
	Assignments	1	30 %
	Attendance	1	30 %
	Practice		%
	Project		%
	Final examination	1	40 %
	<b>Total</b>		<b>100%</b>
<b>Disability Policy</b>	<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 (<a href="https://aybu.edu.tr/engelsiz/content/list-327-yildirim-beyazit-universitesi-engelsiz-universite-birimi-yonergesi.html">https://aybu.edu.tr/engelsiz/content/list-327-yildirim-beyazit-universitesi-engelsiz-universite-birimi-yonergesi.html</a>) 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>		