

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
PSPA325	CURRENT ISSUES IN POLITICS	Elective	6	-	September 2026
Instructor & E-mail Address	Assistant Professor Dr Emre ÇALIŞKAN (emre.caliskan@aybu.edu.tr)				
Office Hours & Location	Tuesday, 10:00-13:00, Office No: B362				
Course Content and Objectives	The aim of this course is to develop students' ability to critically analyze current developments, crises, and transformations in global and national politics in light of the fundamental theories, concepts, and methodological tools of the political science and international relations literature. The course examines world politics from 1945 to the present by combining the perspectives of political history, political science, and international politics. It follows a trajectory from the origins of the Cold War and the dissolution of the bipolar order to globalization and unipolarity, and from these to today's multipolar world in which the liberal order is increasingly questioned. While tracing the legacies of the past, the course opens the political issues of the present and the future to discussion. Students may use artificial intelligence tools for research, idea development, and language editing; however, students are themselves responsible for the accuracy and originality of the generated content and for properly citing the sources used. Disability Policy: If you have a documented disability (e.g., visual, hearing, physical, or other disability) that may affect your performance in this course, you are encouraged to contact Engelsiz AYBU so that the necessary reasonable accommodations (such as providing appropriate conditions) can be made to ensure equal opportunity in fulfilling all course requirements (https://aybu.edu.tr/GetFile?id=Upload/ddc51d9f-df46-4e26-979e-2e1ad3e8fff4.pdf). You may also contact the relevant authorized unit at the Faculty of Political Sciences. To ensure that your needs regarding examinations, course materials, and other matters can be met, you must inform the course instructor of your requirements as soon as possible.				
Textbook / Books	McNeill, W. H. (1999). A world history (4th ed.). Oxford University Press. Henry Kissinger, World Order, 2014. G. John Ikenberry, A World Safe for Democracy, 2020. Amitav Acharya, The End of American World Order, 2nd ed., 2018. Hal Brands & Charles Edel, The Lessons of Tragedy, 2019. John Lewis Gaddis, <i>The Cold War: A New History</i>, 2005. Balcı, A. (2025). Türkiye dış politikası: İlkeler, aktörler ve uygulamalar (1774–2020) (9th ed.). Kronik Kitap. Ahmet Davutoğlu, "Turkey's Foreign Policy Vision: An Assessment of 2007," <i>Insight Turkey</i>, 10(1), 2008. Mustafa Kutlay & Ziya Öniş, "Turkish foreign policy in a post-Western order," <i>International Affairs</i>, 97(4), 2021. Yongjin Zhang (2025), Reimagining the International: Chinese World Ordering before the West. Policy Press. Andrew Monaghan (ed.) (2026), <i>Russian Grand Strategy in the Era of Global Power Competition</i>. Manchester University Press. Francis Fukuyama, The End of History and the Last Man, 1992. Joseph S. Nye Jr., "Get Smart: Combining Hard and Soft Power," <i>Foreign Affairs</i>, 88(4), 2009. Charles Krauthammer, "The Unipolar Moment," <i>Foreign Affairs</i>, 70(1), 1990/91. Jennifer Lind (2024), "Back to Bipolarity: How China's Rise Transformed the Balance of Power," <i>International Security</i>, 49(2), 7–55. John J. Mearsheimer, "Why the Ukraine Crisis Is the West's Fault," <i>Foreign Affairs</i>, 93(5), 2014.				

	Stephen Kotkin, "The Cold War Never Ended," <i>Foreign Affairs</i>, 101(3), 2022. Ian Bremmer, "The Technopolar Moment," <i>Foreign Affairs</i>, 100(6), 2021.	
Teaching Method and Techniques	The course will be conducted through a combination of lectures, case analyses, and in-class discussions.	
Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)		
	1	Defines and interprets current developments in global and regional politics using the fundamental concepts and theories of political science.
	2	Analyzes current political crises (populism, democratic backsliding, crisis of representation, etc.) within their historical and theoretical contexts.
	3	Critically evaluates the effects of global issues such as international migration, climate change, and digitalization on the nation-state structure and sovereignty.
	4	Analyzes the reflections of current social dynamics, such as political identities and polarization, on political systems.
	5	Discusses at the theoretical level how media, artificial intelligence, and disinformation processes transform the public sphere and democratic participation.
Program Outcomes to Which the Course Contributes	Program Outcomes (PO)	
	P01	Defines and interprets the fundamental concepts, theories, and approaches in political science, public administration, law, and urbanization–environment.
	P02	Compares the intellectual foundations of major political ideologies and social difference phenomena such as religion, identity, nationalism, and ethnicity; analyzes their reflections on politics and society.
	P03	Analyzes the historical development of Turkish political life, state–society relations, and Türkiye’s administrative and constitutional structure.
	P04	Analyzes relations among societies and states in the context of world history; evaluates current developments at the national, regional, and global levels on a theoretical basis.
	P05	Defines the fundamental concepts and principles of economics and public finance; explains the relationship between fiscal and economic policies and political-administrative decisions.
	P06	Interprets public and private law legislation; incorporates legislative changes 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 the local, national, and global levels and develops policy recommendations for these problems.
	P09	Recognizes professional roles and employment fields in the public, private, and civil society sectors; applies acquired knowledge in these fields with professional, scientific, and ethical responsibility.
Contribution of the Course to the Field of Study	The course enables students to evaluate the transformation of global politics from a historical and theoretical perspective through fundamental concepts such as power, polarity, hegemony, world order, and globalization. It addresses the core issues of the field in a holistic manner through the formation of the post-Cold War order, U.S. hegemony, the rise of Russia and China, the Arab Spring and conflicts in the Middle East, political crises in Europe, global political economy, migration, digitalization, artificial intelligence, energy and climate politics, and transformations in Turkish foreign policy. In this respect, the course develops students’ ability to analyze current political developments within their historical background, international power relations, and different theoretical approaches; to critically evaluate academic sources; and to produce academic texts on current political issues.	

	Contributions of Course Learning Outcomes to Program Learning Outcomes									
	Contribution Level: 1: Very low 2: Low 3: Moderate 4: High 5: Very high									
		P01	P02	P03	P04	P05	P06	P07	P08	P09
	Ö01	5	4	3	4	3	2	3	3	4
	Ö02	5	5	3	4	2	3	4	3	4
	Ö03	5	4	3	4	2	3	4	2	4
	Ö04	4	5	4	4	2	2	4	2	4
	Ö05	4	3	3	4	2	2	4	2	5
Topics Covered in the Course										
	Weeks		Topics							
	Week 1		Introduction to the Course: Basic Concepts of Contemporary Politics, Syllabus, and Expectations							
	Week 2		The 1945 Break and the Emergence of the Bipolar Global Order							
	Week 3		The Collapse of the Soviet Union and U.S. Hegemony in the Unipolar World Order							
	Week 4		The Return of Revisionist Powers: The Rise of Russia and China							
	Week 5		The Arab Spring and War and Crisis in the Middle East							
	Week 6		Europe’s Crisis: Brexit, EU Integration, and the Rise of the Far Right							
	Week 7		The New Great-Power Struggle: The Ukraine War and U.S.-China Competition							
	Week 8		Midterm Exam Week (No class will be held)							
	Week 9		The Politicization of Migration: Global Migration and Crisis							
	Week 10		Global Populism, Trumpization, and the Future of Democracy							
	Week 11		Global Energy Competition and the Climate Crisis							
	Week 12		The Future of Politics: Politics, Digitalization, and Artificial Intelligence							
	Week 13		Global Political Developments and Türkiye							
	Week 14		The Future of the Global Order: General Assessment							
Assessment Criteria	Semester Activities					Number			Contribution %	
	Mid-terms					1			%40	
	Quizzes								%	
	Assignments								%	
	Attendance								%	
	Practice								%	
	Project								%	
	Final examination					1			%60	
	Total								%100	

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Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools Usage Policy	Assessment in this course is based solely on one midterm exam and one final exam; therefore, no assignments, projects, or written work are required. Students are free to use generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Claude) as supplementary “study assistants” to understand course materials, review complex topics, and prepare for examinations. However, since all examinations will be conducted in class (under supervision), the use of AI tools or any smart device during examinations is strictly prohibited and will be considered a direct violation of academic integrity (cheating).