

ANKARA YILDIRIM BEYAZIT UNIVERSITY – DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COURSE SYLLABUS																			
Course Code	Course Title	Course Type	ECTS Credits	Prerequisite Information	Date of Preparation														
PSPA101	Introduction to Politics I	Compulsory	5	-	September 2026														
Instructor of the Course & E-Mail Address	Lecturer Dr Muhterem Merve Altıntaş (mmaltintas@aybu.edu.tr)																		
Office Hours & Office Room	Friday, 12.30 – 13.30, Office No: B370																		
Course Content and Objectives	This course aims to provide students with the foundational knowledge and skills necessary to understand political processes, forms of political participation, and contemporary political debates by introducing the fundamental concepts, theories, and political ideologies of political science. This course covers the fundamental concepts and theories of political science, political ideologies, and major forms of political participation. It introduces students to the study of politics and political theory, with particular emphasis on liberalism, conservatism, socialism, nationalism, populism, anarchism, fascism, and feminism. The course also examines political participation, representation, elections and voting, political parties, and party systems, while providing an introduction to contemporary political debates.																		
Textbook(s)	The core textbooks for the course are: Heywood, A. (2019) Politics. Bloomsbury Publishing. (5th edition) Heywood, A. (2017) Political Ideologies: An Introduction. Bloomsbury Publishing. (6th edition) Additional readings and resources may be provided as appropriate to the course content and will be shared with students for the relevant class.																		
Teaching Methods and Techniques	The course is primarily conducted through lectures and class discussions. In addition to introducing key concepts, theories, and topics, class sessions include discussions and question-and-answer activities that encourage active student participation. Students are expected to complete the assigned readings for the relevant week before class, share their views based on the course materials, raise questions, and actively engage in discussions.																		
Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)	<table><tr><td>1</td><td>Explains the fundamental concepts of political science, political ideas, and major political ideologies.</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>Compares the main characteristics and political approaches of liberalism, conservatism, socialism, nationalism, and contemporary and alternative ideologies.</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>Analyzes the main characteristics of political participation, representation, elections, and voting, and the relationships among them.</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>Evaluates the roles of political parties, interest groups, and social movements in political processes and their contributions to political participation.</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>Explains the main characteristics of political systems and their relationship with democratic governance.</td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td>Critically evaluates political events and debates through different political approaches and conceptual frameworks.</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>Applies the concepts and frameworks covered in the course to analyze contemporary political issues and compare different political approaches.</td></tr></table>					1	Explains the fundamental concepts of political science, political ideas, and major political ideologies.	2	Compares the main characteristics and political approaches of liberalism, conservatism, socialism, nationalism, and contemporary and alternative ideologies.	3	Analyzes the main characteristics of political participation, representation, elections, and voting, and the relationships among them.	4	Evaluates the roles of political parties, interest groups, and social movements in political processes and their contributions to political participation.	5	Explains the main characteristics of political systems and their relationship with democratic governance.	6	Critically evaluates political events and debates through different political approaches and conceptual frameworks.	7	Applies the concepts and frameworks covered in the course to analyze contemporary political issues and compare different political approaches.
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Program Outcomes Contributed by the Course	Program Outcomes (PO)													
	P01	Analyzes contemporary and historical cases systematically by applying the fundamental concepts and theories of the discipline of International Relations.												
	P02	Formulates research questions, selects appropriate methodologies, and conducts coherent analyses using International Relations research methods.												
	P03	Evaluates contemporary issues in international politics through critical thinking; interprets actors' interests, power relations, and policy outcomes within analytical and theoretical frameworks.												
	P04	Locates international cases within their historical context; explains the development of international politics by examining patterns of historical continuity and change.												
	P05	Communicates academic and contemporary debates in the field of International Relations proficiently in spoken and written English												
	P06	Analyzes the intersections between global political processes and other social science disciplines; integrates interdisciplinary approaches into International Relations analysis.												
	P07	Identifies complex international problems by considering their multidimensional nature and develops independent, critical, analytical, and creative solutions to these problems												
	P08	Demonstrates ethical responsibility by adhering to the principles of academic integrity, including research ethics, responsible data use, proper citation practices, and professional conduct.												
	P09	Analyzes international phenomena from the perspective of sustainability principles.												
	P10	Designs and conducts an independent research project in International Relations by integrating the stages of research question formulation, literature review, methodology selection, and data analysis.												
	P11	Produces clear, coherent, and professional written and oral reports on International Relations themes for relevant individuals and institutions, supported by reliable qualitative and quantitative evidence.												
	P12	Contributes to social development by evaluating institutions and cases objectively and critically.												
	P13	Collaborates effectively in diverse working environments, contributes to shared goals, takes initiative, and participates as a stakeholder in decision-making processes.												
Contribution of the Course to Field Instruction	This course provides a foundational contribution to the International Relations curriculum by introducing students to the core concepts, ideas, and ideologies of political science and developing their understanding of political participation, representation, elections, political parties, interest groups, and social movements. By examining these concepts and processes, the course equips students to analyse political actors, institutions, and contemporary political issues and to approach them from different political perspectives. Its emphasis on comparing political ideas and applying conceptual frameworks to contemporary cases strengthens the analytical, critical thinking, and communication skills that students use throughout their studies in International Relations and in subsequent academic and professional contexts.													
	Contribution of Learning Outcomes to Programme Outcomes													
		P01	P02	P03	P04	P05	P06	P07	P08	P09	P10	P11	P12	P13
	C01	5	2	4	3	2	4	3	3	2	2	2	3	3
	C02	5	2	5	3	2	4	4	3	2	2	2	4	3
	C03	5	2	5	3	2	4	4	3	2	2	2	4	4
	C04	5	2	5	3	2	5	4	3	2	2	2	5	4
	C05	5	3	4	4	3	2	3	2	1	3	3	4	3
	C06	5	3	5	4	3	5	4	2	2	2	3	4	3
	C07	5	3	5	4	2	5	4	3	2	3	3	5	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	General introduction and review of the syllabus	Course syllabus
	2. Week	What is politics?	Heywood, A. (2019) Politics, Chapter 1
	3. Week	Political Theory	Heywood, A. (2015) Political Theory: An Introduction, chapters 1 & 2
	4. Week	Liberalism	Heywood, A. (2017). Political Ideologies: An Introduction, chapter 2
	5. Week	Conservatism	Heywood, A. (2017). Political Ideologies: An Introduction, chapter 3
	6. Week	Socialism	Heywood, A. (2017). Political Ideologies: An Introduction, chapter 4
	7. Week	Nations and Nationalism	Heywood, A. (2019). Politics, chapter 6
	8. Week	Midterm week (No lecture)	
	9. Week	Contemporary and Alternative Ideologies: Populism and Anarchism	Heywood, A. (2017). Political Ideologies: An Introduction, chapter 5
	10. Week	Contemporary and Alternative Ideologies: Fascism and Feminism	Heywood, A. (2017). Political Ideologies: An Introduction, chapters 7 & 8
	11. Week	What is Political Participation?	Van Deth, J. W. (2016). What is Political Participation?, in: Oxford Research Encyclopaedia of Politics.
	12. Week	Representation, Election and Voting	Heywood, A. (2019) Politics, chapter 10
	13. Week	Parties and Party Systems	Banister Heywood, A. (2019) Politics, chapter 11 (2008)
	14. Week	Groups, Interests and Social Movements	Heywood, A. (2017) Politics, chapter 12
	15. Week	Review of the Course	Lecture presentation slides and lecture notes
Course Evaluation Criteria	In-Term Studies	Quantity	Percentage %
	Mid-terms	1	40 %
	Quizzes		%
	Assignments		%
	Attendance		%
	Practice		%
	Project		%
	Final examination	1	60 %
	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	In this course, generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools may be used, in accordance with the principles of academic integrity, to support learning, understand course materials, develop ideas, and brainstorm. However, AI-generated content may not be directly or substantially incorporated into or submitted as the student's own work. Students are responsible for the originality of their submissions and their compliance with academic integrity principles when using AI tools. Where appropriate, the nature and extent of AI use should be clearly acknowledged.		