

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
PSPA 401	Contemporary Political Ideologies	Compulsory	6	None	12.07.2026
Instructor of the Course & E-Mail Address	Assoc. Prof. Mümin Köktaş E-mail: mkoktas@aybu.edu.tr				
Office Hours & Office Room	Office Hours: Monday 12:00-13:00 or by appointment via e-mail Office Room: B319 Classroom / Building: To be announced Language of Instruction: English Weekly Course Hours: 3				
Course Content and Objectives	This course examines the concept of ideology and the major contemporary political ideologies that have shaped modern and contemporary political thought. It covers liberalism, conservatism, socialism, anarchism, nationalism, fascism, populism, feminism, ecologism, multiculturalism, and fundamentalism. The course focuses on the historical development, core themes, internal variations, key concepts, and political implications of these ideologies, while also considering how they interpret major political issues and contemporary public debates. The course aims to enable students to examine major contemporary political ideologies through a systematic, comparative, and critical approach; compare the fundamental assumptions and values of different ideological traditions; analyze political arguments and public debates; evaluate ideological approaches to concepts such as the state, freedom, equality, authority, identity, and democracy; and interpret contemporary political issues from different ideological perspectives.				
Textbook(s)	Heywood, Andrew (2021), <i>Political Ideologies: An Introduction</i> , 7th Edition, Red Globe Press.				
Teaching Methods and Techniques	The course is taught through lectures, weekly readings, and class discussions. Concepts and arguments in the core textbook are examined comparatively and critically. Optional movie reviews allow students to apply the concepts and debates of the course to film examples.				
Course Learning Outcomes	1	Students explain the concept of ideology and the core principles of major contemporary political ideologies.			
	2	Students compare major contemporary political ideologies in terms of their assumptions, values, historical development, and political implications.			
	3	Students evaluate how political ideologies approach key political concepts such as the state, society, freedom, equality, authority, identity, and democracy.			
	4	Students analyze and interpret political arguments, movements, contemporary political issues, and public debates from different ideological perspectives.			
Program Outcomes Contributed by the Course	P1	Defines and interprets the basic concepts, theories, and approaches of political science, public administration, law, and urbanization-environment studies.			
	P2	Compares the intellectual foundations of major political ideologies and social differences such as religion, identity, nationalism, and ethnicity, and analyzes their reflections on politics and society.			
	P4	Analyzes relations among societies and states in the context of world history and evaluates current developments at national, regional, and global levels on the basis of theoretical knowledge.			
	P9	Recognizes professional roles and employment areas in the public, private, and civil society sectors, and applies acquired knowledge with professional, scientific, and ethical responsibility.			
	Scale	P1	P2	P4	P9
	All	5	5	2	4
	CLO 1	5	5	1	4

	CLO 2	5	5	2	4
	CLO 3	5	5	2	4
	CLO 4	5	5	2	4
	Contribution scale: 1 Very low, 2 Low, 3 Moderate, 4 High, 5 Very high.				
Contribution of the Course to Field Instruction	This course strengthens students’ understanding of the ideological traditions that shape political thought, political movements, public debates, and social conflicts. By examining major contemporary political ideologies in a comparative and critical manner, the course helps students develop the conceptual and analytical background necessary for the study of political science and public administration.				
Topics Covered in the Course	Week	Topic	Reading	Recommended Film	
	1	Class meeting, Introduction, Syllabus	No reading	Optional activity: politicalcompass.org/test/en	
	2	Understanding Political Ideologies	Heywood, “Understanding Political Ideologies”		
	3	Liberalism 1	Heywood, “Liberalism”	Twelve Angry Men by Sidney Lumet	
	4	Liberalism 2	Heywood, “Liberalism”		
	5	Conservatism	Heywood, “Conservatism”	The Remains of the Day by James Ivory	
	6	Socialism	Heywood, “Socialism”	Das Leben Der Anderen (The Lives of Others) by F. Henckel von Donnersmarck	
	7	Anarchism	Heywood, “Anarchism”	Fight Club by David Fincher	
	8	Mid-term Week			
	9	Nationalism	Heywood, “Nationalism”		
	10	Fascism	Heywood, “Fascism”	Die Welle (The Wave) by Dennis Gansel	
	11	Populism	Heywood, “Populism”		
	12	Feminism	Heywood, “Feminism”	Suffragette by Sarah Gavron	
	13	Ecologism	Heywood, “Ecologism”	An Inconvenient Truth by Davis Guggenheim	
	14	Multiculturalism	Heywood, “Multiculturalism”		
	15	Fundamentalism; Why Political Ideologies Matter	Heywood, “Fundamentalism”; Heywood, “Why Political Ideologies Matter”		
Course Evaluation Criteria	In-Term Studies		Quantity	Percentage %	
	Mid-terms		1	35	
	Quizzes		3	15	
	Assignments		0	0	
	Attendance		0	0	
	Practice		0	0	
	Project		0	0	
	Final examination		1	50	
	Total		5	100	
	Quizzes are administered during class hours and assess students’ preparation for the weekly readings and their understanding of the topics covered in class up to the relevant week. The date and time of these quizzes will not be announced in advance. Make-up quizzes are offered only for documented/officially authorized absences, consistent with university policy. Quizzes may include multiple-choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blank and/or short-answer questions.				
The midterm examination covers the topics studied up to the examination. The final examination covers the entire textbook and the topics discussed in class. The midterm and final examinations will be administered in multiple-choice format. The make-up examination follows the scope and format announced for the final examination, in accordance with university and faculty regulations.					
Optional movie reviews: Students may write movie reviews about the movies listed in the syllabus. Each					

	review must be between 750 and 1400 words and may contribute up to 2 bonus points to the final examination score. Seven movies are recommended in total. Reviews should connect the film to the concepts and discussions of the relevant week. Some of the recommended movies may contain sensitive or disturbing scenes (e.g., violence or political extremism). Viewing is voluntary and intended for academic discussion purposes only. Movie review submission: Reviews shorter than 750 words will not be accepted and will receive a score of zero. Reviews will not be submitted individually. All reviews must be uploaded as a single document and in the order specified in the syllabus to Turnitin by 23:59 on 18 December 2026. Submission platform: to be announced. Movie review evaluation: Reviews will be evaluated according to their relevance to course concepts, accuracy of ideological analysis, clarity of argument, use of examples from the film, organization, academic writing, and compliance with academic integrity and citation rules. If the similarity rate on Turnitin exceeds 20%, that review may not be evaluated and may receive a score of zero. Movie reviews are not a separate weighted assessment component. The final examination score, including bonus points, cannot exceed 100. These bonus points do not carry over to the make-up examination.
Course Policies	- Reading and discussion of the assigned weekly materials constitute the core of this course. Each student is expected to read the assigned weekly material, attend class regularly and participate in class discussions. - Attendance is mandatory in this course. Students whose absences exceed 30% of the scheduled class hours cannot take the final examination; if they take it, the examination is considered invalid. Medical reports and officially authorized absences are included in this 30% absence limit. Attendance will be monitored through OBS and handled in accordance with university and faculty regulations. - Students are expected to comply with academic honesty and integrity in all course responsibilities. All submitted work must be the student's own work and must properly acknowledge any sources used. Plagiarism, improper citation, unauthorized collaboration, cheating, unauthorized communication, unauthorized materials, copying, and other violations are handled in accordance with university and faculty regulations. - Cheating in examinations, helping another student cheat, using unauthorized materials or communication during an examination, or any similar violation will be handled in accordance with university and faculty regulations. - The course syllabus, course announcements, updates, and shared files will be communicated through OBS. Students are expected to follow OBS announcements regularly. - It is strictly forbidden to take photos, audio, or video recordings in any way with any device in class meetings. - All documents and contents shared in this course are protected by copyright. For this reason, it is a legal obligation that you use them only as part of the course and not share them in any way. Important Dates: Midterm: Week 8, to be announced; Movie review deadline: 18 December 2026, 23:59; Final: according to university final exam schedule.
Disability Policy	If you have a documented disability, such as a visual, hearing, or physical impairment, that may affect your performance in this course, it is recommended that you contact Engelsiz AYBÜ to arrange reasonable accommodations and ensure an equitable opportunity to meet all course requirements: https://aybu.edu.tr/GetFile?id=Upload/ddc51d9f-df46-4e26-979e-2e1ad3e8fff4.pdf. 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 examinations, course materials, and related matters are met.
Artificial Intelligence Tools Usage Policy	In this course, generative artificial intelligence tools may be used to understand course materials, generate ideas, and receive limited language or formatting support. However, AI tools may not be used in a way that replaces the student's own analysis, writing, or argument. Submitting AI-generated content without proper attribution or without critical review and revision by the student will be considered a violation of academic integrity. Students must be able to explain the work they submit and, when necessary, clarify their writing process. Similarity and AI reports generated by Turnitin or similar tools are indicators rather than final judgments; they will be evaluated by the instructor together with the submitted text. Since translation tools may also be reported as AI writing, students are expected to prepare their submitted written work directly by themselves.
Applicable Rules	This syllabus is a guide. In case of any conflict, university/faculty regulations and officially approved procedures prevail. Students with documented or officially recognized circumstances should contact the instructor as early as possible to follow the appropriate process.