

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	-	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 introduces students to the literature on comparative political parties, aiming to provide an understanding of the origins, development, functions, and role of parties in democratic governance. It equips students with the ability to analyze the impact of parties on social structures, societal cleavages, and public policies through examples from different countries. The course begins with the conceptualization of parties, discussing what political parties are and their historical emergence. The second part focuses on the role of parties in democratic theory, party systems, system changes, party patronage, and clientelism. The third part explores the role of parties in social structures, their ideological families, and their functions in contemporary democracies. The course concludes with case studies on current trends and the future of party politics.																		
Textbook(s)	There is one main textbook for this course. Additional texts from a wide range of sources will be assigned each week. Richard S. Katz and William Crotty (eds.) (2006) Handbook of Party Politics. London: Sage Publications.																		
Teaching Methods and Techniques	The course is primarily structured around student presentations, followed by question-and-answer sessions and class discussions. Students are expected to complete the assigned readings for the relevant week and actively participate in presentations and discussions. Following the presentations, the instructor provides supplementary explanations on issues requiring further clarification or emphasis and facilitates class discussions. This approach aims to develop students’ critical thinking, analytical, academic presentation, and discussion skills.																		
Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)	<table><tr><td>1</td><td>Explains the historical origins, patterns of development, and roles of political parties in democratic governance.</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>Analyzes party systems and organizational models across countries from a comparative perspective.</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>Evaluates the impact of political parties on social structures, ideological families, and public policies.</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>Analyzes the functions of political parties in political representation and participation.</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>Evaluates the organizational and institutional characteristics of political parties.</td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td>Critically evaluates contemporary political trends and competing perspectives on the future of political parties.</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>Analyzes the academic literature on political parties and presents findings effectively in written and oral form.</td></tr></table>					1	Explains the historical origins, patterns of development, and roles of political parties in democratic governance.	2	Analyzes party systems and organizational models across countries from a comparative perspective.	3	Evaluates the impact of political parties on social structures, ideological families, and public policies.	4	Analyzes the functions of political parties in political representation and participation.	5	Evaluates the organizational and institutional characteristics of political parties.	6	Critically evaluates contemporary political trends and competing perspectives on the future of political parties.	7	Analyzes the academic literature on political parties and presents findings effectively in written and oral form.
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Program Learning Outcomes Contributed by the Course	Program Learning Outcomes (PO)									
	P01	Define and interpret the fundamental concepts, theories and approaches of political science, public administration, law, and urbanisation–environment.								
	P02	Compare the intellectual foundations of major political ideologies and of social difference phenomena such as religion, identity, nationalism and ethnicity, and analyse their reflections on politics and society.								
	P03	Analyse the historical development of Turkish political life, state–society relations, and Turkey's administrative–constitutional structure.								
	P04	Analyse relations between societies and states within the context of world history, and evaluate current developments at the national, regional and global levels on the basis of theoretical knowledge.								
	P05	Define the fundamental concepts and principles of economics and public finance and explain the relationship between public finance and economic policies and politico-administrative decisions.								
	P06	Interpret public and private law legislation and translate legislative changes into administrative implementation processes.								
	P07	Collect and analyse data using quantitative and qualitative research methods and draw scientific inferences regarding political and administrative phenomena.								
	P08	Evaluate urbanisation and environmental problems at the local, national and global scales, and develop policy proposals to address them.								
	P09	Recognise the professional roles and employment fields in the public, private and civil society sectors, and apply acquired knowledge to these fields with a sense of professional, scientific and ethical responsibility.								
Contribution of the Course to Field Instruction	This course contributes to the Political Science and Public Administration curriculum by examining the origins, development, organizational structures, functions, and roles of political parties in democratic governance from a comparative perspective. By focusing on party systems and organizational models across countries, as well as the effects of political parties on social structures, political ideas, and public policies, the course develops students’ ability to analyse political institutions and processes comparatively. Its emphasis on contemporary political trends and the transformation of political parties strengthens students’ critical thinking and ability to engage with academic literature, while contributing to their capacity to analyse political and administrative phenomena and communicate their findings effectively in written and oral form.									
	Contribution of Learning Outcomes to Programme Outcomes									
		P01	P02	P03	P04	P05	P06	P07	P08	P09
	C01	5	5	5	5	3	5	5	5	4
	C02	5	5	5	5	4	4	5	5	4
	C03	5	5	4	5	5	4	4	5	5
	C04	5	4	5	4	2	3	3	2	3
	C05	5	4	5	4	2	3	3	3	4
	C06	5	5	5	5	4	5	5	5	4
	C07	5	5	5	5	3	4	5	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 a Political Party?	Katz & Crotty (2006) chapter 1
	3. Week	Origins of Parties: Social and Cultural Explanations	Katz & Crotty (2006) chapter 2
	4. Week	Origins of Parties: Institutional and Organizational Explanations	Katz & Crotty (2006) chapter 3
	5. Week	Party in Democratic Theory	Katz & Crotty (2006) chapter 4
	6. Week	Party Systems	Katz & Crotty (2006) chapter 6
	7. Week	Party System Change	Katz & Crotty (2006) chapter 7
	8. Week	Midterm week (No lecture)	
	9. Week	Party Patronage and Clientelism	Katz & Crotty (2006) chapters 16 & 34
	10. Week	Party and Social Structure	Katz & Crotty (2006) chapter 29
	11. Week	Party Families and Ideas	Katz & Crotty (2006) chapter 35
	12. Week	Parties in the Future	Katz & Crotty (2006) Chapter 41
	13. Week	Contemporary Trends in Parties: Populism	Andrej Zaslove (2008) Here to Stay? Populism as a New Party Type, European Review 16(3), pp. 319–336
	14. Week	Contemporary Trends in Parties: Far Right	Matt Golder (2016) Far Right Parties in Europe, Annual Review of Political Science 19, pp. 477–497
	15. Week	Review of the Course	Lecture presentation slides and lecture notes
Course Evaluation Criteria	In-Term Studies	Quantity	Percentage %
	Mid-terms		
	Quizzes		%
	Assignments	1	30 %
	Attendance		%
	Practice	1	30 %
	Project		%
	Final examination	1	40 %
	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.		