

Course Profile - Department of International Relations

Course Number : POLS 337	Course Title: Political Parties and Interest Groups
Required / Elective : Required for the Political Science Program, elective for the International Relations Program	Pre / Co-requisites : None
Catalog Description: Typologies and functions of political parties; electoral systems; political participation. Concept of depoliticization. Political regimes and political participation; structure of political power; government-opposition relations. Analysis of the relationship between politics and interest competition; types of interest groups; examples of interest groups from the experiences of other countries; lobbying activities; lobbying types (religious and ethnical interest groups, etc.). Economic face of politics; class structures; relations of interest groups with politics.	Textbook / Required Material : Alan Ware. 1996. <i>Political Parties and Party Systems</i> . Oxford: Oxford University Press. Russell J. Dalton. 2008. <i>Citizen Politics: Public Opinion and Political Parties in Advanced Industrial Democracies</i> . Washington, DC: CQ Press. Additional articles from social science journals.
Course Structure / Schedule : (3+0+0) 3 / 6 ECTS	
Extended Description : This course is designed to introduce students to the field of research on political parties, party systems and interest groups in consolidated and transitional democracies as well as non-democracies. Various features of the subject matter are covered, such as the classification of party families, institutional frameworks within which political parties operate, social cleavages that have shaped the political origins of parties, interest groups and voting behavior. This course covers political parties across various countries, because comparative method facilitates a broader understanding of the varieties and the consequences of different political parties and party systems.	
Design content : None	Computer usage: No particular computer usage required
Course Outcomes: By the end of this course, students will be able to: 1. Understand the alternative approaches to the study of political parties and party systems in a comparative context. 2. Possess knowledge about competitive and institutional approaches to parties and party ideological change. 3. Be able to apply comparative theories of political parties and party systems to the context of Turkish politics.	
Recommended reading: Anthony Downs. <i>An Economic Theory of Democracy</i> . 1957. Addison Wesley. Seymour Martin Lipset and Stein Rokkan. 1967. <i>Party Systems and Voter Alignments: Cross-national Perspectives</i> . Toronto: The Free Press.	

Teaching methods: Lectures

Course Outline

Week	Topics
1	Introduction and Overview
2	The Study and Classification of Political Parties
3	Origins and Sociology of Political Parties
4	Party Supporters, Party Members and Party Activists
5	Party Organizations
6	Party Systems I
7	Party Systems II
8	Midterm Examination
9	Party Ideology I
10	Party Ideology II
11	Partisanship and Voting
12	Attitudes and Electoral Behavior
13	Sociological Theories of Parties and Voting
14	Left-Libertarian Parties
15	Right-Authoritarian Parties

Assessment methods:

Attendance: 10 %

Pop quizzes: 20 %

Midterm: 30 %

Final Examination: 40 %

Contribution of Course Learning Outcomes to Program Outcomes

	Program Outcomes	*Level of Contribution				
		1	2	3	4	5
IR1	Understand the fundamental concepts and theories of the field of International Relations and be able to apply them to historical and current events					
IR2	Understand the historical processes of political structures and institutions					
IR3	Be able to follow the world political conjuncture					
IR4	Grasp the structures and functions of international/regional/intergovernmental organizations					

IR5	Be able to analyze the dynamics that form the political substructure of various events and phenomena, as well as their effects					
IR6	Understand the international legal framework					
IR7	Grasp and question the causes and consequences of economic developments and their impact on international relations					
PS1	Understand the fundamental concepts and theories of the field of Political Science and be able to apply them to historical and current events					X
PS2	Understand the historical processes, structures, and functions of political institutions					X
PS3	Be able to analyze the dynamics that form the political substructure of various events and phenomena, as well as their effects				X	
PS4	Understand the mechanisms of political change (such as voting, lobbying, political movements, legal reforms, revolution, etc.)					X
PS5	Possess knowledge about those fundamental issues that shape political and societal life (such as race, gender, class, environment, security, religion, identity, etc.)					X
PS6	Acknowledge that political phenomena can be explained differently by different schools of thought				X	
PS7	Grasp and question the causes and consequences of economic developments and their impact on politics					
8	Think independently, creatively, and critically					
9	Be an entrepreneur and take initiative					
10	Have self-confidence					
11	Have the ability to carry out systematic comparisons and rightly differentiate similarities and differences				X	
12	Be open-minded and prepared to work together with people from different cultures and groups					
13	Be aware and a follower of social responsibilities as well as political rights and freedoms					
14	Internalize work ethics and behave accordingly					
15	Be able to speak and deliver presentations in front of public					
16	Understand, read, and write in English				X	
17	Have the ability to observe, analyze, and report					
18	Be able to implement the principles and methods of					

	scientific research					
19	Understand and interpret statistical data					
20	Be prone to team work					
21	Possess computer and technological literacy					

*1 Lowest, 2 Low, 3 Average, 4 High, 5 Highest

Student workload:

Pre-reading	95 hrs
Lectures	42 hrs
Exams and Quizzes	13 hrs
TOTAL	150 hrs to match 25x6 ECTS

Prepared by : Ödül Celep

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