

SPS 303: Law and Ethics

Instructor: Faruk Aksoy

Office hours: Fridays 13.30-15.00 or by appointment

TAs: Zeynep Özge Iğdır

Time of Online Lectures: Tuesday 09:40-11:30, Wednesday 13:40-15:30

Course description

This course is a survey of some of the main concepts that shape academic and non-academic debates about politics. The aim of the course is to equip students with a basic understanding of the key concepts and theories in political philosophy and the critical skills that will put them in a position to rationally make up their own minds about political questions. Topics covered include the law, the rule of law, democracy, hybrid and authoritarian regimes, civil rights, justice, and the institutions of social justice.

Grading

- A. Online midterm exam (35 %)
- B. Online final exam (40 %)
- C. Participation in the discussion sections (10%)
- D. Presentation (10%)
- E. Preparing a survey question (5%)

Lecture and Discussion Recording

The lecture and discussion sections will be held online and live. The video of each lecture will be uploaded to SUCourse and/or Google Drive. However, there will be no recording during the discussion sections.

Discussion sections

The aim of section meetings is to achieve a deeper and more critical understanding of the subjects covered through discussion, based on the lectures and a careful reading of the texts, with your peers. It is therefore essential that you do all your readings and attend your lectures. You are expected to treat other students and your TA's with respect.

Your participation grade will be based on how well you contribute to the discussions. You will not receive points for attendance. However, if you miss more than 4 discussion sections you cannot get an A irrespective of your grades in all other components of the course.

In discussion sections, the previous lecture's topic will be covered.

You cannot change your discussion sections.

Presentations

Each student is required to make a 5 minutes presentation about a country's critical juncture about democratization. Any country except for Turkey can be chosen by students. The presentations will be recorded as a video by the students and uploaded to Google Drive or any alternative platform which instructor and TAs have an access. The presentations should be uploaded by August 10. The details of presentation will be explained by the lecturer.

Preparing a survey questions about rule of law

Students are expected to provide a question to measure rule of law by referring principles and requirements of the concept. They will propose and explain their question in a response paper format. Example questions and all other details will be provided by the instructor during the corresponding lecture.

Make-up Policy

Only students who have missed an exam with a legitimate excuse can take the make-up exam. There will be only one make-up exam, which will be after the finals and cumulative.

Academic Integrity

Familiarise yourself with Sabancı University's Academic Integrity Statement which is binding for all members of the university. There will be zero tolerance for cheating and plagiarism.

Recommended Readings

Here are some books that are useful for getting oriented with the questions we'll be looking at and for further study. They are available on reserve in

the library.

- Estlund, D. M. (2012). *The Oxford Handbook of Political Philosophy*. Oxford University Press, New York.
- Caramani, D., editor (2017). *Comparative politics*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, fourth edition edition
- Goodin, R. E. and Pettit, P., editors (1993). *A Companion to Contemporary Political Philosophy*. Blackwell, Oxford.
- Miller, D. (2003). *Political Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.
- Shapiro, S. (2011). *Legality*. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, MA.

Schedule of Class Meetings and Required Readings

6 July Introduction

7 July: The Definition of Law

Chapter 5 of Hart, H. L. A. (1994). *The Concept of Law*. Clarendon Press, Oxford, 2nd ed. edition.

13 July: Rule of Law

Raz, J. (2009). The rule of law and its virtue. In *The Authority of Law: Essays on Law and Morality*, pages 210–229. Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2nd ed. edition. (You may skip section 4)

14 July: Democracy

Diamond, L. (2003). Defining and developing democracy. In Dahl, R. A., Shapiro, I., and Cheibub, J. A., editors, *The Democracy Sourcebook*, pages 29–40. MIT Press, Cambridge, Mass.

Recommended: Dahl, R. A. (2005). What political institutions does large-scale democracy require? *Political Science Quarterly*, 120(2):187–197.

Przeworski, A. (2003). Defining and developing democracy. In Dahl, R. A., Shapiro, I., and Cheibub, J. A., editors, *The Democracy Sourcebook*, pages 12–17. MIT Press, Cambridge, Mass.

20 July Holiday

21 July Holiday

27 July: Hybrid Regimes

Pages 5-13 and 16-24 of Levitsky, S. and Way, L. (2010). *Competitive authoritarianism: hybrid regimes after the Cold War*. Cambridge University Press, New York.

Pages 55-57, 59-62 and 64-68 of O'Donnell, G. A. (1994). Delegative democracy. *Journal of Democracy*, 5(1):55-69.

28 July: Authoritarian Regimes

Pages 1-13, 129-143, 150-153, 177-187 and 206-217 of Geddes, B., Wright, J., and Frantz, E. (2018). *How Dictatorships Work: Power, Personalization, and Collapse*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge. (You may skip pages 129-143, 177-187, and 206-214.)

3 August First Midterm

4 August: Liberalism of Fear

Shklar, J. N. (1989). Liberalism of fear. In Rosenblum, N. L., editor, *Liberalism and the Moral Life*, pages 21-38. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass

10 August: Two Concepts of Liberty

Pages 393-407 and 410-411 of Berlin, I. (1998). Two concepts of liberty. In *The Proper Study of Mankind: An Anthology of Essays*, pages 191-242. Pimlico, London

11 August: Distributional Justice

Rawls, J. (2004). On justice as fairness. In Clayton, M. and Williams, A., editors, *Social justice*, pages 49-84. Blackwell Pub., Oxford.

17 August: Gender Inequalities

Okin, S. M. (2004). The family: Gender and justice. In Matthew, C. and Williams, A., editors, *Social justice*, pages 203-217. Blackwell Pub., Oxford.

18 August: Economic Inequalities

Marshall, T. H. (1997). Citizenship and social class. In Goodin, R. E. and Pettit, P., editors, *Contemporary Political Philosophy: An Anthology*, pages 291-319. Blackwell Publishers, Oxford.

Asynchronous lecture: Liberty

Chapters 1-3 of Mill, J. S. (1977 [1859]). On liberty. In Robson, J. M., editor, *Essays on Politics and Society*, volume 18

of *Collected Works of John Stuart Mill*, pages 213–310. University of Toronto Press, Toronto. (You may skip pages 235-240, 253-256, and 264-265.)

Asynchronous lecture

A revision for the semester.

Final Exam

The date and time of the exam will be announced later.