

SPS 303A: Law and Ethics

Please note that there might be further changes as the very nature of the COVID-19 pandemic forces us to adapt to daily-changing realities. Please make sure to follow course-related announcements on a daily basis.

Instructor: Faik Kurtulmuş

Office hours: By appointment

TAs: Ayşegül Ataş, İrem Aydaş, Ahmet Gül, Sena Türkdoğan, İnci Ünal

Course Place and Time: FENS G077, Friday 10:40-12:30

Zoom: The Zoom meeting ID is 959 0696 1861. You can also click [here](#) to go to the Zoom meeting. I will email the password to you.

Discussions will be online. Your TA's will send you the Zoom details.

Course description

This course is a survey of some of the main concepts that shape academic and non-academic debates about politics. It aims 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 modern state, the rule of law, democracy, hybrid and authoritarian regimes, civil rights, justice, and the institutions of social justice.

Grading

- A. Midterm (40 %)
- B. Final exam (40 %)
- C. Participation in the discussion sections (10%)
- D. Response Papers and Assignments (10%)

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 in class. You will not receive points for attendance. However, if you miss 4 discussion sections you cannot get an A irrespective of your grades in all other components of the course.

You cannot change your discussion sections.

Response Papers and Assignments

There will be two assignments and two response papers for this class. But you only need to do three of these. The fourth is for you to make up for one that you couldn't do or did poorly in. There will not be any other make up for missed assignments or response papers.

Exam Policy

The exams will be on will be in-person, on campus. Those of you who cannot attend the physical exam because you cannot enter the country or your health conditions bar you from coming to campus will be offered the option of an online exam —but only if you provide proper documentation for this.

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. There also isn't a make-up exam for those who miss their make-up exam.

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. Keep in mind that 'I did not know that this was plagiarism' is not a valid defence. If you have any doubts or questions about what constitutes plagiarism you can consult me or your TA's.

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.

- Berman, S. (2019). *Democracy and Dictatorship in Europe: from the Ancien Régime to the Present Day*. Oxford University Press, New York.
- Caramani, D., editor (2017). *Comparative politics*. Oxford University-Press, Oxford, fourth edition edition
- Estlund, D. M. (2012). *The Oxford Handbook of Political Philosophy*. Oxford University Press, New York.
- 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

1 October	Introduction
8 October	Chapters 2-3 of Fukuyama, F. (2014). <i>Political Order and Political Decay: from the Industrial Revolution to the Globalization of Democracy</i> . Farrar, Straus and Giroux, New York.
15 October	Chapter 5 of Hart, H. L. A. (1994). <i>The Concept of Law</i> . Clarendon Press, Oxford, 2nd ed. edition.
22 October	Raz, J. (2009). The rule of law and its virtue. In <i>The Authority of Law: Essays on Law and Morality</i> , pages 210–229. Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2nd ed. edition. (You may skip section 4)
29 October	No class: Cumhuriyet Bayramı
5 November	Diamond, L. (2003). Defining and developing democracy. In Dahl, R. A., Shapiro, I., and Cheibub, J. A., editors, <i>The Democracy Sourcebook</i> , pages 29–40. MIT Press, Cambridge, Mass. <i>Recommended:</i> Dahl, R. A. (2005). What political institutions does large-scale democracy require? <i>Political Science Quarterly</i> , 120(2):187–197. Przeworski, A. (2003). Defining and developing democracy. In Dahl, R. A., Shapiro, I., and Cheibub, J. A., editors, <i>The Democracy Sourcebook</i> , pages 12–17. MIT Press, Cambridge, Mass.
12 November	Pages 5-13 and 16-24 of Levitsky, S. and Way, L. (2010). <i>Competitive Authoritarianism: Hybrid Regimes After the Cold War</i> . Cambridge University Press, New York. Pages 55-57, 59-62 and 64-68 of O'Donnell, G. A. (1994). Delegative democracy. <i>Journal of Democracy</i> , 5(1):55–69.
19 November	Midterm
26 November	Pages 1-13, 129-143, 150-153, 177-187 and 206-217 of Geddes, B., Wright, J., and Frantz, E. (2018). <i>How Dictatorships Work: Power,</i>

Personalization, and Collapse. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.
(You may skip pages 129-143, 177-187, and 206-214.)

- 3 December** 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.)
- 10 December** Rawls, J. (2004). On justice as fairness. In Clayton, M. and Williams, A., editors, *Social justice*, pages 49–84. Blackwell Pub., Oxford.
- 17 December** Milanovic, B. (2020). The Clash of Capitalisms. *Foreign Affairs*, 99(1):10–14, 16–21.
- 24 December** Marshall, T. H. (1992). *Citizenship and Social Class*. Pluto, London.