SPS 303B

Law and Ethics

Spring 2020

Instructor: Etrit Shkreli

Office hours: By appointment (etrit.shkreli@sabanciuniv.edu)

TAs: Zeynep Özge Iğdır, Yüksel Kılıç, Şeyma Topçu and Sena Türkdoğan

**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 you with a basic understanding of the key concepts and theories in political theory and the critical skills that will put them in a position to be able to consider multiple perspectives and make up your own mind about political questions. Topics covered include the modern state, the rule of law, democracy, responsibility, justice in the Anthropocene, and the institutions of social justice.

**Grading**

A. First midterm (40 %)

B. Final exam (40 %)

C. Quizzes (10%)

D. Written engagement in the discussion sections (5%)

E. Active participation in the discussion sections (5%)

**Discussion sections**

The aim of section meetings is to achieve a deeper and more critical understanding of the subjects covered in the lecture. This is where you practice your argument formulation muscles. The arguments that you bring in are based on the lectures, the assigned texts, events and materials that prompt you to want to think about them aloud and together with your peers. You are expected to treat other students and your TA’s with respect.

**Send in Questions**: 15 minutes before each class you have to submit two questions through the link that is sent to you weekly. The questions are based on the morning lecture. This activity will constitute 5% of your total grade.

**Active participation in the discussion**: During your session you’ll be participating in breakout groups, where you’ll be discussing the questions that have been assigned to your group. Then you’ll come back to the main group asht share the three talking points your group emphasized.This activity will constitute 5% of your total grade.

**Public Forum**

This is the space on SU Course where you discuss further in depth but also more lightly. You can get philosophical or add memes on the subject discussed, just the way you see fit. Please do not hesitate to contribute because **YOU** will be shaping the discussion here.

**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.

**Academic Integrity**

Familiarize 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.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Schedule of Class Meetings and Required Readings | | |
| Date | Theme | Readings |
| 4 March | Introduction |  |
| 11 March | The current state of democracy | Geddes, B., Wright, J., and Frantz, E. (2018). How Dictatorships Work: Power, Personalization, and Collapse. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge. (Introduction) Levitsky, S. and Ziblatt, D., 2018. How democracies die. Broadway Books. (Introduction and Chp 9.) |
| 25 March | Rule of law | Raz, J. 2009. The rule of law and its virtue. In The Authority of Law: Essays on Law and Morality, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2nd ed. Edition, pp 210-229  Recommended reading: Snyder, T., 2021. *On Tyranny Graphic Edition: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century*. Random House. |
| 1 April | Law and morality | Hart, H. L. A., 1994. The Concept of Law. Clarendon Press, Oxford, 2nd ed. pp. 185-212. |
| 8 Apr | Lying and politics | Svendsen, L., 2022. A Philosophy of Lying. Reaktion Books. pp. 83-110  Recommended Reading: Bradshaw, S. and Howard, P., 2017. *Troops, trolls and troublemakers: A global inventory of organized social media manipulation*. Computational Propaganda Research Project. White paper no 2017.12. |
| 15 Apr | Populism and politics | Mudde and Kaltwasser.2009. Populism: A very short Introduction, Oxford UP, pp.79-9 |
| 22 Apr | **Midterm exam** |  |
| 29 Apr | Social justice | Rawls, J. 2004. “On Justice as fairness”, in Clayton, Matthew, and Andrew Williams. Social justice. Blackwell Publishing. pp. 49-82 |
| 13 May | Justice in the Anthropocene | Dryzek, J.S. and Pickering, J., 2018. The politics of the Anthropocene. Oxford University Press. |
| 27 May | Gender and politics | Alston, M., 2014, November. Gender mainstreaming and climate change. In Women's Studies International Forum (Vol. 47, pp. 287-294). Pergamon.  Recommended reading: Phillips, A., 2018. Gender and modernity. Political Theory, 46(6), pp.837-860. |
| 3 Jun | Citizenship | Turner, B.S., 2009. TH Marshall, social rights, and English national identity: Thinking Citizenship Series. Citizenship studies, 13(1), pp.65-73.  Recommended reading: Goodman, S.W., 2021. Immigration threat, partisanship, and democratic citizenship: Evidence from the US, UK, and Germany. Comparative Political Studies, 54(11), pp.2052-2083. |
| 10 Jun | Religion and Politics | Casanova, J. 2006. “Rethinking Secularization: A global comparative Perspective,” The Hedgehog Review, 8/1-2, pp.7-23. |
| 13 Jun | Final Exam | 16:00-18:00 at FMAN 1099 (exam duration 90 min) |