

SPS 303: Law and Ethics

Instructor: Faruk Aksoy (faruk.aksoy@sabanciuniv.edu)

Office hours: Fridays 13.30-15.00 or by appointment

TA: Zeynep Özge Iğdır

Time of Lectures: Monday 09:40-11:30 (FASS 1099), Thursday 09:40-11:30 (FASS 1099)

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. Midterm exam (35 %)
- B. Final exam (40 %)
- C. Participation in the discussion sections (10%)
- D. Quizzes (10%)
- E. Lecture attendance (5%)

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 no extra points for just attendance in discussion sections. You are expected to actively participate the discussion. However, you will get 5 points with respect to your lecture attendance.

You cannot change your discussion sections.

Quizzes

There will be five pop-up quizzes during the semester. Best of four will be counted. They will be held during the discussion section. There will be no make up for quizzes.

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

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|----------------|---|
| 18 July | Introduction |
| 21 July | Chapter 5 of Hart, H. L. A. (1994). <i>The Concept of Law</i> . Clarendon Press, Oxford, 2nd ed. edition. |
| 25 July | 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)

28 July

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.

1 August

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.

4 August

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.)

8 August

First Midterm

11 August

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

15 August

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

18 August

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.)

- 22 August** Rawls, J. (2004). On justice as fairness. In Clayton, M. and Williams, A., editors, *Social justice*, pages 49–84. Blackwell Pub., Oxford.
- 25 August** Okin, S. M. (2004). The family: Gender and justice. In Matthew, C. and Williams, A., editors, *Social justice*, pages 203–217. Blackwell Pub., Oxford.
- 29 August** Holiday. No classes
- 1 September** 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.