

# CURRENT ISSUES IN TURKISH POLITICS

## POLS 553

Wednesdays

Class hours: 16:40 – 19:30

Classroom: FASS 1099

**Inst: Prof. Fuat Keyman**

**Office Hours:** 15:00-16:00

**Office:** FASS 2103

**Email:** fuat@sabanciuniv.edu

**TA:** Laurel Jarombek

**Email:** laurel.jarombek@sabanciuniv.edu

**Office Hours:** Available upon appointment

**ZOOM MEETING INFO:** <https://sabanciuniv.zoom.us/j/6076969005>

*(At the beginning of April, we may have to revise the course plan according to the reassessment to be made country-wide regarding higher education. The content to be delivered is certain, but the course delivery method, the number and dates of exams, and some other details are subject to change.)*

This course aims to contribute to students' ability to analyze analytically and critically the diversities and vicissitudes of political institutions, actors, and discourses in Turkey and "continuities and changes" in Turkish politics. In doing so, the course begins by discussing the question of how to approach methodologically to Turkish politics and then proceeds by focusing on crucial problem areas, namely those of institutional problems, societal changes and demands, and identity questions. The course attempts to discuss these issues and problems by locating them at the international/ domestic nexus. To achieve its aim, the course involves lectures, class discussions, and class presentations and requires both active student participation and reading course material before attending the lectures.

### **Text**

All reading materials, articles, and book chapters selected and required by the instructor each week are available in PDF on SU COURSE.

Course content, requirements, and policies are subject to change at the instructor's discretion.

### **Evaluation (20 %) Attendance**

**(30 %) Two in-class presentations** on reading material (each student will choose two weeks, between **WEEK (4) and WEEK (10)**, read the articles of those weeks analytically, prepare **two short analytical papers (2-3 pages each)** and make **two in-class presentations** on those articles.

**(50 %) Term Paper** (the students are expected to choose a topic by consulting with the instructor and to prepare a paper on it **(20-25 pages)**. **Please bear in mind that**

**PLAGIARISM is not only academically dishonest but also illegal and subject to disciplinary action.)**

## **TOPICS**

### **WEEK (1) and WEEK (2) Methodological Approaches March 1/March 8**

Ş. Mardin, "Center-periphery relations: A key to Turkish politics," in *The Politics of Modern Turkey*, ed. Ali Çarkoğlu and William Hale, vol.1 (London: Routledge, 2008), 96-117.

İ. Sunar, "Populism and Patronage: The Democrat Party and its legacy in Turkey," in *The Politics of Modern Turkey*, ed. Ali Çarkoğlu and William Hale, vol.1 (London: Routledge, 2008), 161-171.

Ç. Keyder, "The Political Economy of Turkish Democracy," in *The Politics of Modern Turkey*, ed. Ali Çarkoğlu and William Hale, vol.1 (London: Routledge, 2008), 118-160.

E. Fuat Keyman and Cana Tulus Turk (2022), "Democracy in Turkey," in Alpaslan Ozerdem and A. Erdi Ozturk (eds.), *A Companion to Modern Turkey's Centennial* (Edinburgh University Press, forthcoming).

### **WEEK (3) Political Regime and Modernity March 8**

R. Kasaba, "Kemalist certainties and modern ambiguities," in *The Politics of Modern Turkey*, ed. Ali Çarkoğlu and William Hale, vol.1 (London: Routledge, 2008), 194- 212.

E. Kalaycıoğlu, "A hundred years of flux: Turkish political regimes from 1921 to 2023," *Turkish Studies*, 1-24.

E. Özbudun, "Presidentialism versus Parliamentarism in Turkey," in *Global Turkey in Europe*, ed. S.A. Düzgüt et al (Rome: Edizioni Nuova Cultura, 2013).

### **WEEK (4) Democracy March 22**

L. Gamboa, "Opposition Strategies against the Erosion of Democracy," in *Resisting Backsliding*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2022), Chapter 2:22-49.

J. McCoy, T. Rahman, and M. Somer, "Polarization and the Global Crisis of Democracy," *American Behavioral Scientist*, 62(1), 2018, 16-42.

### **WEEK (5) Foreign Policy and Global Engagement on Democracy March 29**

M. Kutlay and Ziya Oniş, "Turkish foreign policy in a post-western order: strategic autonomy or new forms of dependence," *International Affairs*, (97:4), 2021.

**Guest Lecturer:** Zeynep Gülşah Çapan: "Turkey's ambivalent self: Ontological Insecurity and Turkish Foreign Policy."

Zeynep Gülşah Çapan and Ayşe Zarakol, "Turkey's ambivalent self: ontological insecurity in "Kemalism" versus "Erdoğanism" *Cambridge Review of International Affairs*, 2019.

Supplementary reading: Pinar Bilgin and Zeynep Gülşah Çapan, "Introduction to the Special Issue Regional International Relations and Global Worlds," *Uluslararası İlişkiler*, 2021: 1-11.

#### **WEEK (6) Secularism April 5**

E. F. Keyman and Ş. Gümüşçü, *Democracy, Identity, and Foreign Policy in Turkey: Hegemony Through Transformation* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014), chp. 8, 116-142.

Ahmet Erdi Öztürk, "An alternative reading of religion and authoritarianism: the new logic between religion and state in the AKP's New Turkey," *Southeast European and Black Sea Studies*, no:19, 2019.

Senem Aydın Düzgit, "The Islamist-Secularist Divide and Turkey's Descent into Severe Polarization," in *Democracies Divided*, chp.1, 2010.

#### **WEEK (7) The AKP Experience April 12**

E.F. Keyman and Ş. Gümüşçü, *Democracy, Identity, and Foreign Policy in Turkey: Hegemony Through Transformation* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014), chp. 3, 29-43.

S. Gümüşçü, "Dominance and democratic backsliding under AKP rule in Turkey," in Cavatorta et al. (eds) *Routledge Handbook on Political Parties in the Middle East and North Africa*, 2020.

L. Gamboa, "Opposition Strategies Elsewhere" in *Resisting Backsliding*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2022), Chapter 6:178-236.

#### **WEEK (8) Ethnic Problem April 19**

H. Bozarslan, "Kurds and the Turkish State," in *The Cambridge History of Turkey*, ed. R. Kasaba, Vol. 4 (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008), 333-356.

E.F. Keyman and Ş. Gümüşçü, *Democracy, Identity, and Foreign Policy in Turkey: Hegemony Through Transformation* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014), chp. 7, 96-115.

D.Kurban, "To Europe and Back: The Three Decades of Kurdish Struggle in Turkey," in *Global Turkey in Europe*, ed. S.A. Düzgit et al (Rome: Edizioni Nuova Cultura, 2013), 175.

**WEEK (9) Urbanization and Local Governance** *April 26*

Sultan Tepe and Ayça Alemdarođlu. "How Authoritarians Win When They Lose." *Journal of Democracy*, Volume 32 No. 4, 2021, p. 87-101. Project MUSE, doi:10.1353/jod.2021.0054.

**TBA**

**WEEK (10) Civil Society and Constitution** *May 3*

E.F. Keyman and Ő. GümüŐçü, *Democracy, Identity, and Foreign Policy in Turkey: Hegemony Through Transformation* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014), chp. 9, 143-162.

B. E. Öder, "Turkey's Democratic Erosion: On Backsliding and the Constitution," *Social Research: An International Quarterly*, Volume 88, Number 2, Summer 2021, pp. 473-500

**WEEK (11) Turkish Politics, Problems, and Prospects** *May 10*

**Webinar: 16:45-18:30: Prof. Meltem Müftüler Baç, Prof. AyŐe Kadiođlu, Prof. Ersin Kalayciođlu, moderated by Prof. Fuat Keyman**

**WEEK (13) Conclusion (In-Class Discussion on Turkish Politics)** *May 17*