

Boğaziçi University
Department of Political Science and International Relations
POLS 373: POLITICS AND CULTURE

Fall 2017

Prof. Dr. Hakan Yılmaz

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Student Assistants: TBA

Reading material: A reading packet will be available at Nazar Kırtasiye in the South Campus

Lecture Hours:

MONDAY	TUESDAY
15:00-15:50	13:00-13:50 14:00-14:50
NH 305	NH 305

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Midterm Exam: 45%

Final Exam: 45%

Participation in class discussions: 10%

Discussion Sessions: TBA

This course will examine how certain ideas (i.e., beliefs, opinions, tastes and preferences) have come to dominate people's hearts and minds and govern their actions. Are certain ideas more influential than others because they possess certain intrinsic qualities that make them so? Through which mechanisms and institutions are power relations produced and maintained or challenged and transformed in the realm of culture? Do power positions in the sphere of culture reflect power positions at the "deeper" layer of the economy or does culture have an autonomous life of its own? We are going to discuss those critical issues of politics in the light of the different frames of analysis developed by some well-known classical and contemporary theorists of culture. At each session all the students are expected to be ready and responsible to make a critical presentation of the reading materials, which will have a considerable influence on your final grade.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

The Department of Political Science and International Relations has the following rules and regulations regarding academic honesty.

1. Copying work from others or giving and receiving answers/information during exams either in written or oral form constitutes cheating.
2. Submitting take-home exams and papers of others as your own, using sentences or paragraphs from another author without the proper acknowledgement of the original author, insufficient acknowledgement of the consulted works in the bibliography, all constitute plagiarism.
3. Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and will result in:
 - a) an automatic “F” in the assignment or the exam
 - b) an oral explanation before the Departmental Ethics Committee
 - c) losing the opportunity to request and receive any references from the entire faculty
 - d) losing the opportunity to apply in exchange programs
 - e) losing the prospects of becoming a student assistant or a graduate assistant in the department

The students may further be sent to the University Ethics committee or be subject to disciplinary action.

PART A) Defining the Basic Concepts of Cultural Analysis and Locating Culture in Relation to Politics, Society, and the Economy

- 1) Lecture: Introducing the content of and the requirements for the course. Discussing various meanings of such important concepts as “culture”, “text”, “narrative”, “discourse”, and “myth”.
- 2) Karl Marx and Frederick Engels. “Feuerbach – Opposition of the Materialist and Idealist Outlook”. In the authors’ *The German Ideology. Part One*. Ed. By C.J. Arthur. New York: International Publishers, 1970, pp. 39-68. Written in 1845-1846
- 3) Karl Marx and Frederick Engels. “Feuerbach – Opposition of the Materialist and Idealist Outlook”. In the authors’ *The German Ideology. Part One*. Ed. By C.J. Arthur. New York: International Publishers, 1970, pp. 69-95. Written in 1845-1846
- 4) Antonio Gramsci. “The Intellectuals”. In *Selections from the Prison Notebooks of Antonio Gramsci*. Ed. and trans. by Quintin Hoare and Geoffrey Nowell Smith. New York: International Publishers, 1971, pp. 5-23. Written in 1929-1935.
- 5) Max Weber. “The Distribution of Power within the Political Community: Class, Status, Party”. In the author’s *Economy and Society, Volume 2*. Ed. By Guenther Roth and Claus Wittich. Berkeley, Los Angeles, London: University of California Press, 1978, pp. 926-939.
- 6) Max Weber. “Domination and Legitimacy”. In the author’s *Economy and Society, Volume 2*. Ed. By Guenther Roth and Claus Wittich. Berkeley, Los Angeles, London: University of California Press, 1978, pp 941-955.
- 7) Pierre Bourdieu. “Principles for a Sociology of Cultural Works”. In the author’s *The Field of Cultural Production*, New York: Columbia University Press, 1993, pp. 176-191.
- 8) Pierre Bourdieu. “Outline of a Sociological Theory of Art Perception”. In the author’s *The Field of Cultural Production*, New York: Columbia University Press, 1993, pp. 215-237.
- 9) Pierre Bourdieu. “Symbolic Power and the Political Field”. In the author’s *Language and Symbolic Power*, Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1991, pp. 163-251.

**PART B) THE CULTURAL CONTEXT OF DEMOCRACY AND
DICTATORSHIP**

**PART B - 1) THE CULTURAL CONTEXT OF DICTATORSHIP: The
Frankfurt School Thinkers on the Cultural and Psychological Origins of
Authoritarianism/Totalitarianism**

- 10) Arendt, Hannah. 1979 (1948). *The Origins of Totalitarianism*. New York: A Harvest Book, Harcourt Brace & Company. (Preface to Parts One, Two, Three; Part Three)
- 11) Arendt, Hannah. 2006 (1963) *Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil*. New York: Penguin Books. (pp.193-203)
- 12) Fromm, Eric. *Escape from Freedom*. 1969 (1941). New York: Open Road (pp.9-18; 74-109; 145-155)
- 13) Adorno, Theodor, Frenkel-Brunswik, Else; Levinson, Daniel; and Sanford, R. Nevitt. 1950. *The Authoritarian Personality*. New York: Harper and Brothers (Foreword; Preface; pp.1-27; 744-782)

**PART B - 2) THE CULTURAL CONTEXT OF DEMOCRACY: American
Political Science and the Invention of the Concept of Political Culture as a
Precondition of Democracy: “Civic Culture”, “Postmaterial Culture”, “Western
Civilization”**

- 14) Almond, Gabriel A. and Verba, Sidney. 1989 (1963). *Civic Culture: Political Attitudes and Democracy in Five Nations*. Newbury Park, California: Sage Publications. (pp 1-44; 337-363)
- 15) Inglehart, Ronald and Welzel, Christian. 2010. “Changing Mass Priorities: The Link between Modernization and Democracy”, *Perspectives on Politics*, Vol. 8, No. 2 (June 2010), pp. 551-567.
- 16) Inglehart, Ronald and Welzel, Christian. 2009. “How Development Leads to Democracy: What We Know About Modernization”, *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 88, No. 2 (March/April 2009), pp. 33-48.
- 17) Huntington, Samuel P. 1993. “The Clash of Civilizations?”. *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 72, No. 3 (Summer, 1993), pp. 22-49.
- 18) Huntington, Samuel P. 1993. “If Not Civilizations, What? Paradigms of the Post-Cold War World”. *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 72, No. 5 (Nov. - Dec., 1993), pp. 186-194.