

Course Profile - Department of International Relations

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| Course Number: POLS 340 | Course Title: Politics of the Balkans |
| Required / Elective : Elective | Pre / Co-requisites : - |
| Description: This course is designed to familiarize students with the political and historical development in the Balkans from the nation-building process to transition to democracy. Emergence of the authoritarian regimes and expansion of communism after WWII. Dissolution of Yugoslavia and ethnic conflicts, different party systems and the status of the minorities. | Textbook / Required Material : reader provided by the instructor |
| Course Structure / Schedule : (3+0+0) 3 / 5 ECTS | |
| Extended Description: The main goal of the course is to provide a theoretical base to understand the modern history and politics of the countries of Southeast Europe: Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Turkey and the successor states of the former Yugoslavia. This course aims to analyse the contemporary situation of the Balkan states by comparing their historical, demographical, social and economic structures. The emergence of authoritarian regimes between interwar years, and its divergence to communist states after WWII will be examined with a comparison to Greek and Turkish experiences through the theories issued in the class. Some of the important topics we will cover in this class include: Yugoslavia War, party and electoral systems, democratization theories, political representation of minorities and the continuing current political issues. | |
| Design content : None | Computer usage: Not required |
| <p>Course Outcomes:</p> <p>By the end of this course, students will be able:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •To Follow and interpret major developments in the Southeast European politics •To understand the current political and socio-economic differences between Southeast Europe and Western Europe •To understand and compare the different political processes of Greece and Turkey •To analyze the democratization process in the region through discussing the different theories • To compare the party and electoral systems of the Balkan states through major methods developed in political science and comprehend the variations on the political representation of their minorities • Apply course information to analyze and explain new cases and deliver class presentations | |
| Teaching methods: Lectures | |
| Course Outline | |
| Week | Topics |
| 1 | Introduction to Balkan Politics |

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| 2 | Demographical Features of the Balkan States |
| 3 | Cultural and Historical Background |
| 4 | Nationalism and Nation-Building Process |
| 5 | Balkan Wars and WWI |
| 6 | Rise of the Authoritarian Regimes |
| 7 | Impact of the WWII:Greek Civil War and Turkish Democracy |
| 8 | Rise of Communism and Its Economic Influences |
| 9 | Greek and Turkish Experiences |
| 10 | Dissolution of Yugoslavia |
| 11 | Democratization in the Balkans I |
| 12 | Democratization in the Balkans II |
| 13 | Party and Electoral Systems |
| 14 | Minority Question and Political Representation of Minorities |
| 15 | Current Issues: Macedonia Question and Kosovo's Status |

Assessment methods:

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| Mid-term exam | 30% |
| Final exam | 40% |
| Short Paper | 10% |
| Quizzes | 10% |
| Attendance and class participation | 10% |

Contribution of Course Learning Outcomes to Program Outcomes

| | Program Outcomes | *Level of Contribution | | | | |
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| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| IR1 | Understand the fundamental concepts and theories of the field of International Relations and be able to apply them to historical and current events | | | X | | |
| IR2 | Understand the historical processes of political structures and institutions | | | X | | |
| IR3 | Be able to follow the world political conjuncture | | | | | X |
| IR4 | Grasp the structures and functions of international/regional/intergovernmental organizations | | | X | | |
| IR5 | Be able to analyze the dynamics that form the political substructure of various events and phenomena, as well as their effects | | | | X | |
| IR6 | Understand the international legal framework | X | | | | |
| IR7 | Grasp and question the causes and consequences of economic developments and their impact on international | | | | X | |

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| PS1 | Understand the fundamental concepts and theories of the field of Political Science and be able to apply them to historical and current events | | | | | X |
| PS2 | Understand the historical processes, structures, and functions of political institutions | | | | | X |
| PS3 | Be able to analyze the dynamics that form the political substructure of various events and phenomena, as well as their effects | | | | | X |
| PS4 | Understand the mechanisms of political change (such as voting, lobbying, political movements, legal reforms, revolution, etc.) | | | | | X |
| PS5 | Possess knowledge about those fundamental issues that shape political and societal life (such as race, gender, class, environment, security, religion, identity, etc.) | | | | | X |
| PS6 | Acknowledge that political phenomena can be explained differently by different schools of thought | | | | X | |
| PS7 | Grasp and question the causes and consequences of economic developments and their impact on politics | | | | X | |
| 8 | Think independently, creatively, and critically | | | | | X |
| 9 | Be an entrepreneur and take initiative | | | | X | |
| 10 | Have self-confidence | | | | X | |
| 11 | Have the ability to carry out systematic comparisons and rightly differentiate similarities and differences | | | | | X |
| 12 | Be open-minded and prepared to work together with people from different cultures and groups | | | | | X |
| 13 | Be aware and a follower of social responsibilities as well as political rights and freedoms | | | | | X |
| 14 | Internalize work ethics and behave accordingly | | | X | | |
| 15 | Be able to speak and deliver presentations in front of public | | | | X | |
| 16 | Understand, read, and write in English | | | | | X |
| 17 | Have the ability to observe, analyze, and report | | | X | | |
| 18 | Be able to implement the principles and methods of scientific research | | | | X | |
| 19 | Understand and interpret statistical data | | | | X | |
| 20 | Be prone to team work | | | X | | |
| 21 | Possess computer and technological literacy | | X | | | |

*1 Lowest, 2 Low, 3 Average, 4 High, 5 Highest

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| Student workload: | |
| Reading | 58 hrs |
| Lectures | 42 hrs |
| Exam preparations | 20 hrs |
| Examinations | 5 hrs |
| TOTAL | 125 hrs (25x5) 5 ECTS |
| Prepared by : Burcu Taşkın | Revision Date : 04.12.2014 |