**Antalya Bilim University**

**Department of Political Science and International Relations**

**POLS 403, Democracy, Civil Society and Social Capital**

**Fall 2019**

Class time: Tuesday: 13.30-15.30

Friday 10.30-11.30 a.m. (A2-03)

Office hours: Thursday 13.00-14.00

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(A2-70)

This course is a hands-on course about civil society and social capital. The students are expected to work in groups and develop a project for a civil society organization (CSO) of their own choosing. The project should specifically aim to improve the visibility and the reach of the chosen CSO; hence it should target increasing the CSO’s social capital. At the end of the course, the students will present their projects as poster presentations. A committee of CSOs’ representatives and academics will evaluate the projects and choose the best of the “right project”; that is the project that matches well with the given CSO’s objectives and the resources.

Students should master the basic conceptual and theoretical discussions about civil society and social capital in order to be able to think thoroughly about developing projects for the CSOs. Besides its practical focus, the present course, then, also gives students the opportunity to engage with a lively discussion on civil society, social capital and democracy. These discussions have recently become the more relevant (interesting?) given the current debates about the populist backlash to democratic regimes.

The course is organized into two components. The first component is the practical one: students should start thinking about their projects in the first week of the course. They should follow the guidelines attached to this syllabus for their project development. The second component is the theoretical one: the students should follow the syllabus to engage with the conceptual, theoretical and empirical discussions on democracy, civil society and social capital. This component presents both the bottom-up citizen’s-level mechanisms and the top-down political and institutional dynamics, which influence the relationship between civil society, social capital and democracy. The selected readings will make the students familiar with case studies from different historical periods as well as countries. Some of the readings will also present critical approaches to study civil society and social capital, which further improve students’ understanding about the course themes.

**Course book:**

There is also a course reader for this course, which is available in the ABU Copy Center, titled POLS 403.

**Expectations & Requirements:**

1. **Attendance & Participation (%5)**: Attendance is COMPULSORY in this course. Students who miss more than %70 of the course fail the course automatically. Besides the attendance, the students are also expected to come to class prepared and actively participate in the weekly discussions.
2. **Mid-term (30%):** Students will have one mid-term exam throughout the semester, which constitutes 30% of the overall grade. Midterm will base on ALL course material we cover until the exam date.
3. **Project (%25):** Students will develop a project for a CSO of their own choosing and they will present this project as a poster in front of a committee of CSOs’ experts and the fellow students. Project details are provided in the attached document titled ***Project Details for POLS 403.***
4. **Final exam (40%):** Students will have one final exam at the end of the semester, which makes 40% of your overall grade. The majority of the final exam questions will base on the course material we cover after the midterm exam.

**Expected Student Conduct in the Classroom**

The expected student conduct in the classroom includes and not limited to:

* Coming to class on time and not leaving the class early without prior permission of the instructor.
* Focusing carefully on the course and avoiding engaging in not-class related activities such as checking e-mails from laptops/cell phones, reading not-class related materials such as newspapers and magazines, engaging in side conversations.
* Students are expected to behave mindful about the instructor as well as the fellow students while asking questions and making comments. They should request permission from the instructor before asking a question or making a comment. Also, they should respect other student’s right to ask questions/make comments.
* Students are expected to behave mindful about the physical environment as well. They should be careful not to trash the classroom. Students should clean up their garbage before leaving the classroom.
* Students should make sure they turn off their cell phones during the class time and they should use their laptops only for class-related purposes.

**Course Schedule**

**PART I- CONCEPTUAL DISCUSSIONS**

**Week 1-2 (16-27 Sept.) Liberal discussions on democracy**

Lipset, Seymour Martin. “The Social Requisites of Democracy Revisited: 1993 Presidential Address” American Sociological Review 59, no.1 (Feb. 1994), pp.1-22.

Galston, W.A. “The populist challenge to Liberal Democracy” Journal of Democracy, 29, no.2 (2018): 5-19.

**Week 3-5 (30 Sept.-18 Oct.) Civil Society**

Micheal Walzer. “A Better Vision: The Idea of Civil Society” *Dissent* 39 (Spring 1991): 293-304.

Edmund Wnuk-Lipinski. “Civil Society and Democratization” In *The Oxford Handbook of Political Behavior*, 675-693, Oxford University Press, 2007.

Çakmaklı, Didem. “Active citizenship in Turkey: learning citizenship in civil society organizations” *Citizenship Studies* 19, no.3-4 (2015): 421-435.

**Week 6-7 (21 Oct.-1 Nov.) Social Capital**

Woolcock, M. and Narayan, Deepa. “Social Capital: Implications for Development Theory, Research and Policy” *The World Bank Research Observer* 15, no.2, (2000): 225-249.

Eric Uslaner. “Democracy and Social Capital” In *Democracy and Trust*, edited by Mark E. Warren, 121-151. Cambridge University Press, 1999.

Cerem I. Cenker-Özek. “Civic Space in Turkey: A Social Capital Approach to Civil Society” *Turkish Studies*, 18, no.4 (2017): 688-709.

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**Week 8 (Nov. 4-8)- Midterm Week**

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**PART II- DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO STUDY CIVIL SOCIETY, SOCIAL CAPITAL AND DEMOCRACY**

**Week 9-10 (11-22 Nov.) Bottom-up, citizen’s-level approach**

Dieter Fuchs. “The Political Culture Paradigm” In *The Oxford Handbook of Political Behavior*, 161-185, Oxford University Press, 2007.

Putnam, Robert, Nanetti, Rafealla, and Leonardi, Robert. *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy.* Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1993, Chapter 4.

Marc Morje Howard and Leah Gilbert. “A Cross-National Comparison of the Internal Effects of Participation in Voluntary Organizations” *Political Studies*, 2008. DOI: 10.1111/j.1467-9248.2007.00715.x

**Week 11-12 (25 Nov.-6 Dec.) Top-down, political/institutional approach**

Jean Cohen. “Trust, voluntary association and workable democracy: the contemporary American discourse of civil society” In *Democracy and Trust*, edited by Mark E. Warren, 208-249. Cambridge University Press, 1999.

Berman, Sheri. “Civil Society and the Collapse of the Weimar Republic.” *World Politics* 49, no.3 (1997): 401-429.

Richard Rose. “When Government Fails: Social Capital in an Anti-modern Russia” In *Beyond Tocqueville: Civil Society and the Social Capital Debate in Comparative Perspective*, edited by Bob Edwards, Michael Foley and Mario Diani, 56-70. Tufts University, 2001.

**Week 13-14 (9-20 Dec.) Poster presentations & discussion**

**Project Guidelines**

**Week 1-2 (16-27 Sept.)**

Choose your group members and the CSO that you both are interested.

All groups should inform me about their chosen CSO by ***27 September 2019***. You need my approval at this stage to proceed to the next stage.

**Week 3-4 (30 Sept.-11 Oct.)**

Make an appointment with the given CSO representative and interview him/her about the CSO’s objectives, activities, and resources. The objective of this appointment is i. to introduce yourself to the CSO, ii. to start understanding the CSO’s institutional structure and capacity, iii. to start thinking about the possible ways you develop a project for this CSO.

Make sure you take a photo with the CSO representative.

**Week 5-6 (14-25 Oct.)**

Participate in a meeting of this CSO and meet with different members. In this meeting, you should socialize with the CSO members and understand i. the CSO’s member profile , ii. members’ perspectives about the CSO’s strength and weaknesses, iii. the CSO’s organizational structure.

Make sure you take a photo of the meeting.

**Week 7-8 (28 Oct.-8 Nov.)**

Write a report on i. a brief explanation about the CSO, ii. CSO’s resources (financial, physical, human, and social resources) , iii. CSO’s activities, iv. CSO’s cooperation with other CSOs, v. CSO’s public visibility, vi. CSO’s institutional strengths and weaknesses.

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*This report will constitute 10% of the overall Project grade\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*The deadline for the report is 15 November 2019\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**Week 9-10 (11-22 Nov.)**

Develop a project for the CSO which will help increasing the CSO’s social capital and visibility.

**Week 11 (25-29 Nov.)**

Make an appointment and discuss the project with the CSO’s representatives. Make sure you take the objectives and resources of the CSO into consideration when you develop the project.

**Week 12 (2-6 Dec.)**

Prepare a project poster for the competition and submit it electronically by ***6 December 2019, 10.00 a.m. the latest.***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Poster submission will constitute 5% of the overall Project grade\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**Week 13 (9-13 Dec.)**

Poster presentation / Poster competition on **11 December 2019**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*This presentation will constitute 10% of the overall Project grade\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*The wining poster will get an A from this part of the Project\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***