Content

Course Code	Course Name	Semester	Theory	Practice	Lab	Credit	ECTS
SP395	Modern Political Ideologies	5	3	0	0	3	6

Prerequisites	
Admission Requirements	

Language of Instruction	Turkish
Course Type	Elective
Course Level	Bachelor Degree
Objective	The aim of this course is to enable students to develop a comparative understanding of the historical development, theoretical foundations, and key concepts of modern political ideologies. It seeks to enhance their ability to analyze how major ideological traditions, including liberalism, socialism, conservatism, nationalism, fascism, ecologism, feminism, and religious fundamentalism, shape political institutions, public policies, and societal debates. The course also aims to equip students with the analytical tools to approach ideologies not merely as historical currents of thought, but as frameworks for understanding and critically evaluating contemporary political developments, democratic transformations, and political discourses.
Content	This course examines the historical development, key concepts, and theoretical approaches of modern political ideologies. Major political ideologies, including liberalism, conservatism, socialism, Marxism, nationalism, fascism, feminism, and ecologism, are explored within the historical and social contexts in which they emerged. The course provides a comparative analysis of these ideologies' approaches to fundamental political issues such as freedom, equality, justice, authority, the state, and society. It also examines the influence of political ideologies on contemporary political debates and transformations.
References	Freeden, M., Sargent, L. T. & Stears, M. (Eds.). (2013). *The Oxford Handbook of Political Ideologies*. Oxford University Press. Faure, J., Humphrey, M. & Laycock, D. (Eds.). (2026). *The Routledge Handbook of Ideology Analysis*. Routledge. Heywood, A. (2021). *Political Ideologies: An Introduction* (7th ed.). Bloomsbury Academic. Freeden, M. (1996). *Ideologies and Political Theory: A Conceptual Approach*. Oxford University Press.

Theory Topics

Week	Weekly Contents
1	The Concept of Political Ideology: What is ideology? The emergence and functions of ideologies, major theoretical approaches, and contemporary debates on ideology
2	Liberalism I: Fundamental principles of liberalism, classical and modern liberalism, negative and positive liberty
3	Liberalism II: The rule of law, democracy, the welfare state, libertarianism, and critiques of liberalism
4	Socialism I: The emergence of socialism, the origins of Marxism, the critique of capitalism, class struggle, historical materialism, and debates between revolutionary and reformist approaches
5	Socialism II: Democratic socialism, ethical socialism, social democracy, socialist economics, and debates on the socialist state
6	Conservatism: Tradition, order, authority, and the critique of rationalism; different strands of conservative thought
7	Midterm Exam
8	Anarchism: Critiques of authority and the state, voluntary association, and decentralized political order
9	Nationalism: The emergence of nationalism as an ideology, its fundamental concepts, and different interpretations
10	Fascism: Origins, fundamental principles, and conceptions of political order
11	Ecologism: Rethinking the relationship between humans and nature, ecological democracy, and sustainable society
12	Feminism: The critique of patriarchy, feminist ideologies, and the redefinition of politics
13	Religious Fundamentalism: Secularization, modernity, and the politicization of religion
14	The Transformation of Ideologies: Continuity, fragmentation, and hybridization