Content

Course Code	Course Name	Semester	Theory	Practice	Lab	Credit	ECTS
SP383	Contemporary Political Psychology	7	2	2	0	2	4

Prerequisites	
Admission Requirements	

Language of Instruction	French
Course Type	Elective
Course Level	Bachelor Degree
Objective	This course analyzes the psychological processes that shape individuals' relationships with politics. It examines how political behavior is formed through political cognition, emotions, identities, and group dynamics. The course addresses contemporary political issues such as polarization, populism, misinformation, and authoritarian tendencies from a psychological perspective.
Content	This course provides an introduction to the main concepts, theories, and approaches of political psychology. It examines the psychological mechanisms that influence political attitudes and behavior, particularly cognition, emotions, social identity, values, and ideological orientations. Particular attention is paid to the processes of political opinion formation, voting behavior, polarization, and the relationship between political psychology and democracy. Theoretical approaches are illustrated through empirical research and examples drawn from contemporary politics.
References	1. Huddy, L., Sears, D. O., Levy, J. S., & Jerit, J. (Eds.). (2023). *The Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology* (3rd ed.). Oxford University Press. 2. Osborne, D., & Sibley, C. G. (Eds.). (2022). *The Cambridge Handbook of Political Psychology*. Cambridge University Press. 3. Cottam, M. L., Mastors, E., Preston, T., & Huseby, J. W. (2025). *Introduction to Political Psychology* (5th ed.). Routledge. 4. Houghton, D. P. (2026). *Political Psychology: Situations, Individuals, and Cases* (3rd ed.). Routledge. 5. Jost, J. T., & Sidanius, J. (Eds.). (2004). *Political Psychology: Key Readings*. Psychology Press. Dersin haftalık zorunlu ve tamamlayıcı okumaları ile diğer ders materyalleri Microsoft Teams üzerinden öğrencilerle paylaşılacaktır.

Theory Topics

Week	Weekly Contents
1	Introduction to Political Psychology: Psychological Foundations of Political Behavior
2	Political Cognition: Processes of Political Information Processing
3	Attitudes and Beliefs: Formation and Resistance of Political Judgments
4	Identity and Politics: Group Belonging and Political Behavior
5	Emotions and Politics: The Role of Affect in Political Decision-Making
6	Authoritarianism and Obedience: Psychological Dynamics of Political Attitudes
7	Midterm Exam
8	Political Leadership: Perception, Emotion, and Psychological Mechanisms
9	Political Communication: Perception, Framing, and Meaning-Making
10	Affective Polarization: Group Identity and Political Hostility
11	Misinformation: Belief, Perception, and Resistance Mechanisms
12	Populism: The Psychological Construction of Political Belonging
13	Democracy and Political Behavior: The Relationship Between Individuals and Systems

Week	Weekly Contents
14	Democracy and Political Behavior: The Relationship Between Individuals and Systems