Content

Course Code	Course Name	Semester	Theory	Practice	Lab	Credit	ECTS
SP445	Political and Social Issues in Contemporary Turkey	5	3	3	0	3	5

Prerequisites	
Admission Requirements	

Language of Instruction	French
Course Type	Elective
Course Level	Bachelor Degree
Objective	This course offers an in-depth analysis of the political and social dynamics of contemporary Turkey, combining historical, institutional, and sociological approaches.
Content	The course aims to: - provide lasting analytical frameworks for understanding present-day Turkey; - situate recent political developments within a long-term perspective; - analyze transformations in the political regime, social cleavages, and forms of mobilization; - develop students' critical and comparative analytical skills, particularly in relation to European and Mediterranean political systems. The course is designed for Erasmus students from diverse disciplinary backgrounds, with no prior specialization in Turkish studies.

References	Şerif Mardin, « Center-Periphery Relations: A Key to Turkish Politics? », Daedalus, Vol. 102, No. 1, Post-Traditional Societies (Winter, 1973), pp. 169- 190. Erik J. Zürcher, Turkey. A Modern History, I.B.Tauris & Co., 4th ed., « The Rule of the Democratic Party. 1950-60 », pp. 223-243. Asım Karaömerlioğlu, « Turkey's 'Return' to Multi-Party Politics : A Social Interpretation », East European Quarterly, XL, No. 1, March 2006, p. 89-94. Semih Vaner, « Système partisan, clivages politiques et classes sociales en Turquie (1960-1981) », CEMOTI, No. 1, 1985. Birol Akgün, « Aspects of Party System Development in Turkey », Turkish Studies, Vol. 2, No. 1, 2001. Frank Tachau, « Turkish Political Parties and Elections : Half a Century of Multiparty Democracy », Turkish Studies, Vol.1, No. 1, Spring 2000, pp. 128- 148. Gilles Dorronsoro, Benjamin Gourisse, « Une clé de lecture du politique en Turquie : les rapports État-Partis », Politix, Volume 27 - n°107/2014, p. 195-218. 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Senem Aydın-Düzgit, Evren Balta, « When elites polarize over polarization: Framing the polarization debate in Turkey », New Perspectives on Turkey, No. 60 (2019): 153-176. Berk Esen, Şebnem Gümüşçü, « Killing Competitive Authoritarianism Softly: The 2019 Local Elections in Turkey », South European Society and Politics, 24:3, 2019, 317-342. Berk Esen, Şebnem Gümüşçü, Hakan Yavuzyılmaz, « Competitive yet unfair: May 2023 elections and authoritarian resilience in Turkey », South European Society and Politics, 28:3, 2023, 359-387. Jean Marcou, Füsun Üstel, Deniz Vardar, « La République en France et en Turquie », Revue internationale de politique comparée, vol.7, No. 3, 2000. Jean-Paul Burdy, Jean Marcou, « Laïcité / Laiklik : Introduction », CEMOTI, No. 19 – Laïcité(s) en France et en Turquie, janvier-juin 1995, p. 5-34. Ziya Öniş, « The Political Economy of Islamic Resurgence in Turkey : The Rise of the Welfare Party in Perspective », Third World Quarterly, Vol. 18, No. 4, 1997. 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[En Turc : Martin van Bruinessen, « Erken 21. Yüzyılda Kürt Kimlikleri ve Kürt Milliyetçilikleri », in : Elçin Aktoprak & A. Celil Kaya (eds), 21. Yüzyılda Milliyetçilik: Teori ve Siyaset. Istanbul : İletişim, 2016, pp. 349-373.] Kemal Kirişçi, Gareth Winrow, The Kurdish Question and Turkey, Routledge, 1997. Martin van Bruinessen, « The Kurds as objects and subjects of historiography : Turkish and Kurdish nationalists struggling over identity » in Fabian Richter (ed.), Identität Ethnizität und Nationalismus in Kurdistan. Münster : Lit Verlag, 2016, pp. 13-61. Bilge Yeşil, « Authoritarian Turn or Continuity? Governance of Media through Capture and Discipline in the AKP Era », South European Society and Politics, 23:2, 2018, pp. 239-257. Ergin Bulut, Başak Can, « Media, Affect, and Authoritarian Futures in "New Turkey" : Spectacular Confessions on Television in the Post-Coup Era », Communication, Culture and Critique, Volume 13, Issue 4, December 2020, pp. 403–421. 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Theory Topics

Week	Weekly Contents
1	General introduction: Contemporary Turkey — why is it so complex?
2	The legacy of the Ottoman Empire and socio-political cleavages on the eve of the Republic
3	Historical political cleavages and elections – I: From the single-party period to moderate bipartyism (1923–1950)
4	Historical political cleavages and elections – II: Institutionalization of the left–right cleavage (1950–1973)
5	Historical political cleavages and elections – III: Polarized multipartyism and political instability (1973–2002)
6	A history of the political instrumentalization of religion (1876–1994)
7	The February 28 process (1997), the “post-modern coup”: from the National Vision parties to the AKP
8	The political climate of the 2000s: Polarization, authoritarianism, populism?
9	The “presidential government system” and its implications
10	The “Kurdish question”: A historical overview
11	Social movements and youth in contemporary Turkey
12	Political communication and the state of democracy
13	The AKP’s cultural policies
14	Conclusion and future perspectives