**Content**

| Course Code | Course Name | Semester | Theory | Practice | Lab | Credit | ECTS |
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| SP321 | Political Parties | 5 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 4 |

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| Prerequisites | |
| Admission Requirements | |

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| Language of Instruction | French |
| Course Type | Elective |
| Course Level | Bachelor Degree |
| Objective | This course focuses on political parties, which—benefiting from one of the longest-standing traditions of scholarly inquiry—constitute a structuring object in political science. Political parties will be examined within the frameworks of political science theories and methods, both as full-fledged actors of the political system and as “mediators” between the system and citizens. Through their analysis, the course aims to provide a deeper understanding of the functioning of representative regimes. To this end, a comparative perspective will be adopted, with particular attention to recent transformations (populism, crisis of representation, digitalization, etc.). |
| Content | outlining a political sociology of parties, we will first attempt to establish definitions that allow us to situate parties within the political system and present efforts to conceptualize the origins, history, functions, and future of the party phenomenon—an element inseparable from liberal democracy.<br><br>Next, we will examine political parties as organizations and present the various typologies developed based on their modes of organization.<br><br>We will then offer an analysis of parties based on the logic of their political project and their positioning regarding social and political conflicts, leading to a classification of political families.<br><br>Finally, we will analyze party systems which enables to decipher the relationships parties establish with one another and their connections to electoral mechanisms. |

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| References | OFFERLÉ, Michel, « Qu'est-ce qu'un parti politique ? », Les partis politiques, Paris, PUF, coll. « Que Sais-Je ? », 1997.<br>SEILER, Daniel-Louis, « À quoi servent les partis politiques ? », Les partis politiques, Paris, Armand Colin, 2000, pp. 26-35.<br>LAPALOMBARA, Joseph & WEINER, Myron, « The Origin and Development of Political Parties » in J. La Palombara et M. Weiner (dir.), Political Parties and Political Development, Princeton, Princeton University Press, 1966, pp. 3-42.<br>CHARLOT, Jean, « Partis politiques : pour une nouvelle synthèse théorique », in MENY, Yves (dir.), Idéologies, partis politiques et groupes sociaux. 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Katz and William Crotty (eds.), Handbook of Party Politics, Sage Publications, 2006.<br>MAIR, Peter, « Party System Change », in Richard S. Katz and William Crotty (eds.), Handbook of Party Politics, Sage Publications, 2006.<br>DOWNS, Anthony, « An Economic Theory of Political Action in a Democracy », The Journal of Political Economy, Vol. 65, No. 2. (Apr. 1957), pp. 135-150.<br>DOWNS, Anthony, An Economic Theory of Democracy, Boston: Addison Wesley, 1957.<br>LYTVYN, V. S., ROMANYUK, A. S., « Essence and Relevance of "Small" Parties: Problems of Conceptualisation », Politické Vedy. Vol. 26, no. 2, pp. 75-113.<br>WAGNER, Markus, « Niche parties and political competition », in Neil Carter, Daniel Keith, Gyda M. 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**Theory Topics**

| Week | Weekly Contents |
|---|---|
| 1 | Introduction: framing the problem; presentation of the course and its organization |
| 2 | Definition and functions of political parties: agents of conflict and instruments of its integration |
| 3 | Political parties as an object of study in political science: historical overview from founding scholars to contemporary research |
| 4 | Political parties as organizational phenomena: contemporary approaches and typologies |
| 5 | Program, doctrine, ideology: studying parties through the logic of political projects |
| 6 | Party families: uni- and multidimensional classifications |
| 7 | The cleavage paradigm: an attempt to apply the model to the case of Turkey |
| 8 | Parties that forma system: the study of party systems |
| 9 | Evolution of the Turkish party system: from the single-party system to presidential alliances |
| 10 | Party strategies and electoral competition: the role of small and niche parties |
| 11 | Crises of representation and democracy, and political parties |
| 12 | Debates on the current state and future of political parties |
| 13 | Presentation of research projects (posters) |
| 14 | Review and conclusion |