

CRP 495 URBAN POLITICAL ANALYSIS

Course Code:	1210495
METU Credit (Theoretical-Laboratory hours/week):	3(3-0)
ECTS Credit:	5.0
Department:	City And Regional Planning
Language of Instruction:	English
Level of Study:	Undergraduate
Course Coordinator:	Prof. Dr. Melih Ersoy
Offered Semester:	Fall Semesters.

Aim of the Course

The terms “urban” and “politics” went hand in hand throughout the history. As Lefebvre puts: “*There is politics of space because space is political*”. Urban life embraced power and politics from the very emergence of the human settlements. The aim of this course is to introduce the students to the basic concepts and theories of political power, state, local state and their analysis in urban context. The course is organized into three parts. The first part is devoted to the methodological problems which is indispensable for the scientific analysis of social and political issues. Such an introduction is a must, to comprehend, evaluate and debate the material presented in the latter sections of the course properly. Part two examines in a summary manner the theories developed about the state (i.e. the ultimate organization of political power) in general and the capitalist state in particular. Part three deals with the local state, the role played by and functions fulfilled by the state in urban context. The course will be conducted in a lecture-demonstration mode. Readings are to be regarded as reference material, “suggested” rather than “required”. Because of the length of the overall list, students will be expected to read selectively- choosing some areas for intensive reading and others for skimming according to particular interests.

Grading

Students who did not participate less than 30 percent of the classes will be graded NA.

20 % Attendance and Participation into Discussions

35 % Paper Presentation

45 % Final Exam

Course Content

Part 1: Methodological Problems: Investigating the roots of methodologies in social sciences.

Week 1- Introduction

Week 2- Philosophical Roots: Materialism vs. Idealism;

Week 3- Four sets of assumptions on the Philosophy of Science: Ontology; epistemology; human nature and methodology.

- Debates on Ontology: Nominalism, Realism and Conventionalism

Week 4- Four sets of assumptions on the Philosophy of Science: Ontology; epistemology; human nature and methodology.

- Debates on Epistemology: Positivism vs. Anti-positivism.

Week 5- Four sets of assumptions on the Philosophy of Science: Ontology; epistemology; human nature and methodology.

- Human Nature Debate: Determinism vs. Voluntarism

Week 6- Four sets of assumptions on the Philosophy of Science: Ontology; epistemology; human nature and methodology.

- Methodological Debate: Nomothetic vs. Ideographic Theories

Part 2: Study of Four Paradigms

Week 7- Assumptions About the Nature of Society: Radical Change vs. Regulation

- Structural Functionalism

Week 8- Assumptions About the Nature of Society: Radical Change vs. Regulation

- Interpretive Paradigm
- Radical Humanist Paradigm

Week 9- Assumptions About the Nature of Society: Radical Change vs. Regulation

- Radical Structuralist Paradigm

Part 3: Study of Those Paradigms In Relation to Theories on State, Local State, Urban Studies and Urban Planning

Week 10 - Structural Functionalism

Theories of State: Pluralism

Theories of Local State: R.Dahl

Urban Planning: Rational Comprehensive Planning

Urban Studies: Chicago School

Week 11 -Interpretive Paradigm

Theories of State: Ethical theory of state- Hegel
Theories of Local State: Pahl
Urban Planning: Advocacy Planning
Urban Studies: Housing Classes

Week 12- Instrumentalism

Theories of State: Instrumentalist theory of state
Theories of Local State: Cockburn
Urban Planning: Incrementalism
Urban Studies: Lojkin

Week 13- Structuralism

Theories of State: Poulantzas
Theories of Local State: Uneven Development
Urban Planning: Marxist Critique of Planning
Urban Studies: Castells' Early Writings

Week 14- Radical Humanist Paradigm

Theories of State: Habermas and the State
Urban Planning: Collaborative Planning
Urban Studies: Lefebvre

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course the students will have a comprehensive knowledge of the different methodological approaches in relation to different social theories on state, local state, urban studies and urban planning. They are expected to have the knowledge and skills to comprehend and evaluate the - mostly not declared- theoretical approaches of the writers on different urban political issues by studying various texts.

Reference Material

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