

CRP 409 Urban Politics

Course Code:	1210409
METU Credit (Theoretical-Laboratory hours/week):	3(3-0)
ECTS Credit:	4.0
Department:	City And Regional Planning
Language of Instruction:	English
Level of Study:	Undergraduate
Course Coordinators:	Assist.Prof.Dr. Osman Balaban
Offered Semester:	Fall Semester

Course Objective

The main objective of this course is to introduce the students to the theory and practice of urban politics. The course is designed to familiarize students with the political context of urban policies and restructuring, as well as conflicts/alliances among political actors (i.e. social classes, interest groups, etc.) over urban space. A special emphasis is placed on Turkish cities and the Turkish experience of urbanization. However, international experiences are also referred to and explained throughout the classes, when necessary.

Course Content

The course comprises of three main parts. First part involves the lectures on theoretical foundations of urban politics. The second part deals with the political analysis of Turkish urbanization in the Republican Era. The third part focuses on current issues and problems of urban politics in Turkey, including urban regeneration, spatial inequalities, environmental problems, etc.

Weekly Program

Part 1: THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS OF URBAN POLITICS

Week 1- Introduction to the course

Week 2- Theory, concepts and method

- The concepts of space, place and geography
- The concepts of state and society
- The discussion on theory and its relation to urban politics

Week 3- Main Paradigms I

- Pluralism
- Elite Theory
- Growth Machines

Week 4- Main Paradigms II

- Neo-Marxist Urban Analysis
- Urban Managerialism

Week 5- The Local State

- The concept of local state
- Local government system in Turkey

Week 6- Urban Planning and Politics

- Different approaches of urban planning and their relations to theories of urban politics

Part 2: POLITICAL ANALYSIS OF URBANIZATION IN TURKEY

Week 7- Periodization of Urbanization in Turkey in the Republican Era

- Urbanization of the state
- Urbanization of labour power
- Urbanization of capital

Week 8- Neoliberal Transformation and its Impacts on Urbanization in Turkey: Post-1980 Era

- Transition from import-substitution to neo-liberalism
- Spatial implications of economic restructuring
- Role of cities in capital accumulation

Part 3: CURRENT ISSUES IN URBAN POLITICS

Week 9- Global Cities

- Spatial implications of globalization
- Functions and main features of global cities
- Social aspects of and processes in global cities

Week 10- Housing Problem and Urban Regeneration/Redevelopment

- Housing problem and squatter development in Turkey
- Roots and early attempts of urban regeneration in Turkey

Week 11 - Neoliberalism and Urban Regeneration/Redevelopment Debate

- Evolution of urban regeneration concept after 1980
- Different applications of urban regeneration under neoliberal restructuring in Turkey
- Contemporary discussions on urban regeneration

Week 12 -Spaces of Distinction and Inequalities

- Urban spatial implications of neo-liberalism
- Uneven development at the city level
- Gated communities, spatial segregation, etc.

Week 13- Politics of Global Environmental Problems

- Cities and environmental challenges
- Global environmental governance
- Social and political aspects of environmental problems

Grading

Students are expected to come to the class by reading the relevant reading material and also participate to the class discussions. Students who did not participate less than 30% of the classes will be graded NA.

15 % Attendance and Participation to Class Discussions

35 % Mid-term Exam (Paper Submission)

50 % Final Exam

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course the students will have a comprehensive knowledge of the theories of, and contemporary issues in urban politics. They will have acquired the understanding that urban development does not take place in a vacuum but has a political background. The students will have the sufficient knowledge to discuss and critically evaluate the major theoretical approaches in urban politics field. With the help of such knowledge, they will grasp and also analyze the political background of urban development. The students will be able to set the links between practical issues of urbanization and wider political processes at both national and local levels.

Selected Reference Material

David Judge, Gerry Stoker and Harold Wolman, 1995. *Theories of Urban Politics*. London: Sage.

Peter Saunders, 1983. *Urban Politics*. London: Huthinson.

David Harvey, 1985. *Urbanization of Capital*. Oxford: Blackwell.

H. Tark Şengül, 2009. *Kentsel Çelişki ve Siyaset*. Ankara: İmge Kitabevi.

Susan Fainstein and Norman Fainstein, 1996. 'City Planning and Political Values'. In S. Campell and S. Fainstein (eds.), *Readings in Planning Theory*. Oxford: Blackwell.

Chris Pickvance, 1984. 'The Structuralist Critique In Urban Studies'. In M.P. Smith (ed), *Cities In Transformation (Class, Capital and The State)*, Sage Publications: pp. 31-50.

H. Tark Şengül, 2012. 'İktidar'. In G. Atılğan & E.A. Aytekin (eds.), *Siyaset Bilimi: Kavramlar, İdeolojiler, Disiplinlerarası İlişkiler*. İstanbul: Yordam Kitap.

H. Tark Şengül, 2012. 'Türkiye'nin Kentleşme Deneyiminin Dönemlenmesi'. In F. Alpkaya and B. Duru (eds), *1920'den Günümüze Türkiye'de Toplumsal Yapı ve Değişim*, Ankara: Phoenix Yayınevi.

- Osman Balaban, 2011. İnşaat Sektörü Neyin Lokomotifi? Birikim, Sayı 270, pp. 19-26.
- Saskia Sassen, 1998. 'The State and the Global City'. In S. Sassen, Globalisation and its Discontents, New York: New Press, pp. 177-194.
- Saskia Sassen, 1998. 'The Informal Economy: Between Old and New Regulations'. In S. Sassen, Globalisation and its Discontents, New York: New Press, pp. 153-174.
- Peter Marcuse, 2005. 'Enclaves Yes, Ghettos No: Segregation and the State'. In D.P. Varady (ed), Desegregating the City: Ghettos, Enclaves, and Inequality, New York: State University New York Press, pp.15-30.
- Patrick Loftman and Brendan Nevin, 1995. 'Prestige Projects and Urban Regeneration in the 1980s and 1990s: A Review of Benefits and Limitations'. Planning Practice and Research, 10(3-4), pp.299-316.
- Osman Balaban, 2013. 'Neoliberal Yeniden Yapılanmanın Türkiye Kentleşmesine Bir Diğer Armağanı: Kentsel Dönüşümde Güncelin Gerisinde Kalmak'. In A. Çavdar and P. Tan (eds.), İstanbul: Müstesna Şehrin İstisna Hali, İstanbul: Sel Yayıncılık, pp. 51-78.
- Osman Balaban, 2010. 'İklim Değişikliği ile Mücadelede Kamu Sektörünün Rolü: Türkiye Üzerine Bir İnceleme'. Amme İdaresi Dergisi, 43(3), pp. 83-108.
- Harriet Bulkeley, 2009. 'Planning and Governance of Climate Change'. In S. Davoudi, J. Crawford, and A. Mehmood (eds), Planning For Climate Change, London: Earthscan, pp. 284-296.