

Boğaziçi University
**MIR 524: Media and Communication Systems: Case Studies from Turkey, Europe and the
Middle East**
Summer 2020

Instructor: Selcan Kaynak

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Office: IB 411

Lecture Hours: Monday and Wednesday 18:30 to 21:20

Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description and Objectives: This course primarily aims to equip the student with critical thinking skills, which will enable them to question mainstream views on politics and media. This overall goal suggests that by the end of the semester students would be able to:

- Have a knowledge of key concepts and debates in the field
- Think critically about everyday views and debates on media and politics
- Articulate critical questions and analyses in response to lecture material, in class discussions and assigned readings

Readings: All reading material will be available online; access will be facilitated during the first week of classes.

Policies: There are three essential components to this course: Assigned readings, lectures and in-class discussions. Thus, attendance and active participation is required. Please note: **Participation will constitute 30% of the final grade.** Participation grade will be based on attention to lecture material and providing intelligent contributions to class discussions. Thus, reading assigned material in time and being prepared to reflect on them during discussions are crucial.

Academic Honesty: The Department of Political Science and International Relations has the following rules and regulations regarding academic honesty.

1. Copying work from others or giving and receiving answers/information during exams either in written or oral form constitutes cheating.
2. Submitting take-home exams and papers of others as your own, using sentences or paragraphs from another author without the proper acknowledgement of the original author, insufficient acknowledgement of the consulted works in the bibliography, all constitute plagiarism.
3. Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and will result in:
 - a) an automatic “F” in the assignment or the exam
 - b) an oral explanation before the Departmental Ethics Committee
 - c) losing the opportunity to request and receive any references from the entire faculty
 - d) losing the opportunity to apply in exchange programs
 - e) losing the prospects of becoming a student assistant or a graduate assistant in the department

The students may further be sent to the University Ethics committee or be subject to disciplinary action. Necessary information for proper citation guidelines will be provided in class. If you have any doubt about your citations, please feel free to consult me for help.

Grading:

Mid-term: %30

Final paper: % 40

Attendance and participation: % 30

Mid-term: Mid-term will be cumulative and will cover all readings, lectures and audio-visual material presented in class. It is scheduled for September 2nd . There will be **no make-up** for a missed midterm. This exam will be take-home, further information will be provided in class.

Final paper: Final paper will review a case study which will illustrate one of the themes covered through the semester. The paper will be briefly presented during the last two meetings.

Participation: Participation grade will be based on attendance and participation in discussions.

Lecture schedule: The following is a tentative list of all lecture topics. If need be, slight adjustments will be made; they will be announced in class.

Week 1: Introduction

August 5th: Introduction to the course and key concepts.

Week 2 : Media Systems and Politics**August 10th :**

Schudson, M. (2017). How to Think Normatively About News and Democracy. *The Oxford Handbook of Political Communication*.

Kaya, R. & Cakmur, B. (2010). Politics and the Mass Media in Turkey. *Turkish Studies*, 11(4), 521 – 537.

August 12th:

Yesil, B. (2018). Authoritarian Turn or Continuity? Governance of Media through Capture and Discipline in the AKP Era. *South European Society and Politics*, 1-19.

Yıldırım, K., Baruh, L., & Çarkoğlu, A. (2020). Dynamics of Campaign Reporting and Press-Party Parallelism: Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism and the Media System in Turkey. *Political Communication*, 1-24.

Week 3: Technologies and Social Change**August 17th :**

Turkle, S. (2011). *Alone Together: Why we Expect More From technology and Less From Each Other*. New York: Basic Books. pp: 1-20 , 279-305.

August 19th :

Gerbaudo, P. (2016). Constructing public space| rousing the Facebook crowd: Digital enthusiasm and emotional contagion in the 2011 protests in Egypt and Spain. *International Journal of Communication*, 10, 20.

Bulut, E., & Yörük, E. (2017). Mediatized populisms| Digital populism: Trolls and political polarization of Twitter in Turkey. *International Journal of Communication*, 11, 25.

Pedwell, C. (2019). Digital tendencies: intuition, algorithmic thought and new social movements. *Culture, Theory and Critique*, 60(2), 123-138.

Week 4: Popular Culture and Politics

August 24th :

Kraidy, M. M., & Al-Ghazzi, O. (2013). Neo-Ottoman cool: Turkish popular culture in the Arab public sphere. *Popular Communication*, 11(1), 17-29.

Yörük, Z., & Vatikiotis, P. (2013). Turkey, the Middle East & the Media| Soft Power or Illiusion of Hegemony: The Case of the Turkish Soap Opera" Colonialism". *International Journal of Communication*, 7, 25.

August 26th:

Lagerwey, J. (2018). The Great British Bake Off, joy, and the affective potential of Nadiya Hussain's amateur celebrity. *Celebrity Studies*, 9(4), 442-454.

Lalancette, M., & Raynauld, V. (2019). The power of political image: Justin Trudeau, Instagram, and celebrity politics. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 63(7), 888-924

Week 5 : Media and Global Politics

August 31st :

Zelizer, B. (2018). Cold War redux and the news: Islamic State and the US through each other's eyes. *Critical Studies in Media Communication*, 35(1), 8-23.

Dahlgren, P. (2018). Media, Knowledge and Trust: The Deepening Epistemic Crisis of Democracy. *Javnost-The Public*, 1-9.

And review

September 2nd : Midterm Exam

Week 6: Media and Global Politics

September 7th :

Engesser, S., Ernst, N., Esser, F., & Büchel, F. (2017). Populism and social media: How politicians spread a fragmented ideology. *Information, communication & society*, 20(8), 1109-1126.

Waisbord, S. (2018). Why populism is troubling for democratic communication. *Communication Culture & Critique*, 11(1), 21-34.

Baldwin-Philippi, J. (2019). The technological performance of populism. *New Media & Society*, 21(2), 376-397.

September 9th : Presentations

Week 7: Conclusions

September 14th : Conclusions and Presentations