MEDITERRANEAN POLITICS

Number of sessions: 30
Length of each season: 1.5 h
Total length of the module: 45 hours

INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

This course explores issues of development, the state, and democracy within the Mediterranean region with a special attention to Southern Europe, North Africa, and Turkey (from a comparative perspective). In this exploration we will pay attention to issues of Modernity and its significance and connection to development, the state, and democracy. The religion-politics duality is of essence throughout the semester. A cultural component (films, related to Mediterranean political issues) will be part of this course.

REQUIREMENTS

- Fluent in English
- No background knowledge is required for this course.

CONTENTS

- Mediterranean political issues
- Modernity
- Religion & politics
- Politics of development
- Conceptualizing development, democracy, the state, globalization

GRADING (THERE WILL BE NO EXAMS IN THIS COURSE)

Discussion Papers (35%): Each student will write a 5-page (double-spaced) reaction paper criticizing and analyzing the readings pertaining to a preselected day. This task will be performed twice during the semester (i.e., 17.5% each essay).

Research Paper (30%): Each student will independently elaborate a 15-page (double-space) research paper, but with guidance from the professor.

Presentation in class (10%): Each student will present his or her final research paper in class.

Reaction Critical Paper (10%): Each student will read another classmate’s paper, listen to his/her paper presentation, and criticize the same ones. The student will submit a 5-page word-processed document (double-spaced) highlighting your comments, critiques, and questions posed to your classmate during his/her presentation and your level of satisfaction with the answers received in an orderly way.

Attendance/Participation (15%): Each student is expected to come prepare to class (i.e., having read the assigned readings and with questions, comments, observations regarding these).
BIBLIOGRAPHY (Just a selection and we will read only a chapter or two of most books.)

    - Alexander Wendt, “PREFACE TO A QUANTUM SOCIAL SCIENCE” (draft, 2009)
- Marx, “On the Jewish Question”
- Rousseau, “Civil Religion”
- KÖSEBALABAN, Hasan, “Turkey and the New Middle East: Between Liberalism and Realism", PERCEPTIONS, Autumn 2011, Volume XVI, Number 3, pp. 93-114