Lecture: Tuesday 10:40 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Lecture Hall: FENS G077

Instructors:
Ateş Altınordu, atesaltinordu@sabanciuniv.edu, meeting by appointment
Emre Erol, erolemre@sabanciuniv.edu, office hours: Tuesdays-Thursdays 14:00-15:00

Course Coordinator:
Mehmet Kuru, mkuru@sabanciuniv.edu, office hours: Wednesdays-Fridays 13:30-14:30

Technical Assistant: Kaan Özgüney, ozguney@sabanciuniv.edu

Course Description: This course provides an introduction to the study of society, culture, and politics in the modern world. We will first explore the role of religion, science, and political ideologies in modern societies. We will then focus on labor, production, exchange, and the transformation of nature under industrial capitalism. Finally, we will conclude the course with an investigation of the institutions and patterns of modern political life, with a dual focus on the modern state and on contentious politics.

Grading: the components of the final course grade are as follows:

- Midterm examinations: 40% (Two midterms x 20% from each)
- Process essay: 30% (Outline 5% + Final Draft 25%)
- Discussion sections: 20% (Ten discussions weeks x 2% from each)
- In-lecture questions: 10% (Five Top Hat questions x 2% from each)

Course Requirements: Students are expected to complete the assigned readings before each lecture, actively participate in in-class activities and discussion sections, take two midterm exams, and submit a process essay outline and final draft. While attendance is not mandatory in lectures, five random in-lecture questions will be asked throughout the semester. Students are allowed to miss up to five discussion sections—those who miss more than five discussion sections will automatically receive a zero for all of their discussion section grades. In addition, those who miss five or more discussion sections and both midterm examinations without a valid excuse will fail the course and be considered NA.

Course Components:

Midterm examinations: There will be two midterm examinations in this course. Each examination will consist of identification and short essay questions, as well as a brief section of bonus questions. Students will be graded based on their comprehension of the readings, lectures, and discussion section materials and their ability to formulate analytical arguments based on this content.

Process essay: Students are expected to write an analytical process essay in two steps based on a list of topics that will be distributed to them in the first week of the discussion sections. The first step of this assignment is the submission of an outline (Week 4) and the second step is the submission of a final process essay (Week 11). Students who wish to seek more guidance have the option of submitting a preliminary draft on Week 8 to receive feedback before the submission of their final process essay on Week 11. This step is not mandatory but voluntary.
This draft will not be graded. Each step, except the ungraded draft, is graded separately. Please make sure to read the ‘Process essay guidelines’ on SUCourse for more details.

Discussion sections: Discussion sections are student-centered learning hours conducted by SPS facilitators. There will be a total of eleven discussion sections. Every discussion section will consist of two hours and each hour will consist of components including a long exercise that would be graded out of 10 except the first week. Attendance will be taken regularly during discussion sections.

Film week: Week 5 has been designated as “film week.” There will be no discussion section during this week. Instead, a film screening will take place on Wednesday night. A Top Hat bonus assignment will immediately follow the film screening. The bonus assignment (provided that it is answered correctly) will weigh a total of 2% of the overall course grade. Attendance will not be taken during the screening.

Lectures and in-lecture questions: Lectures constitute the backbone of this course. The content delivered in the lectures will be tested in the midterm examinations. Lecture attendance is not mandatory but five in-lecture questions will be asked at random lecture hours throughout the semester through the Top Hat system. These questions will aim to test your comprehension of the lecture content. Students are not allowed to answer in-lecture questions from outside the lecture hall. Cheating will not be tolerated.

Reading assignments: Students are expected to do all required readings. Readings are designed to complement the lectures and midterms will include questions based on these texts.

Make-Up Policy: No make-ups are allowed for in-lecture questions, process essay outlines, and process essay final drafts. Late submissions for process essay final drafts are allowed only for a single day (until 23:59 of the next day after the original deadline) but there is a penalty for late submissions (5% deduction from your course grade). Make-ups are only allowed for midterms to those with an official report from the University Health Center for the date of the exam in question and those with an official permission notice from the university for participation in a university event on the date of the exam in question. Students are not allowed to take any form of examination or submit any assignments on days where they have documented excuses. The makeup exam will take place in class on Tuesday, May 15. The makeup exam will be cumulative, meaning that students will be responsible for the content of the entire course in the makeup exam. Students with an official report from the University Health Center or an official permission notice from the university for participation in a university event on the date of a discussion section will receive the average points they have received for their other section worksheets throughout the semester.

Objection Policy: Students are only allowed to object to their midterm and paper assignment grades. Bargaining about grades is absolutely not tolerated. All objections must have a solid basis and they must be submitted in person (not digitally). The facilitators who graded the assignment in question will initially assess the objections. The SPS course coordinator will make a second assessment if need be. Please check the objection guidelines on SUCourse for further instructions.

Assigned Readings: It is strongly recommended that students purchase the SPS reader from the copy shop at the University Center. The SPS 102 reader includes all of the required readings listed below and these readings will also be accessible from the SUCourse web page of the course. Readings should be done before the class for which they are assigned. See the schedule of readings and lectures below.
Grading Scale: Final grades will be calculated using the following point distribution:

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Academic Integrity: Cases of plagiarism will be directly referred to the Dean’s Office for disciplinary action. This SPS course does not tolerate any breach of academic integrity.

For the university’s Academic Integrity Statement, see:

http://www.sabanciuniv.edu/en/academic-integrity

Course Outline and Readings

Week 1 (February 6) – A. Altınordu & E. Erol

Lecture 1: Introduction to the Course
Lecture 2: What is Modernity?
* Crash Course Big History - Modernity: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eYS3-ShEnbs

Week 2 (February 13) – A. Altınordu

Lecture 1: The Protestant Reformation
Lecture 2: The Scientific Revolution

Week 3 (February 20) – A. Altınordu

Lecture 1: The Enlightenment
Lecture 2: Secularization

Week 4 (February 27) – E. Erol

Lecture 1: The Industrial Revolution
Lecture 2: The Great Divergence
* Global Connections, pp. 165-190, 231-245.
* The Rise of the West and Historical Methodology, Crash Course World History #212: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nosJVTuCHFk
** Outlines Due (Friday, March 2) **

Week 5 (March 6) – A. Altinordu

Lecture 1: Capitalism and Social Classes
Lecture 2: Time and Work Discipline in Industrial Capitalism

Week 6 (March 13) – M. Kuru

Lecture 1: Migration and Urbanization
Lecture 2: The Modern City

Week 7 (March 20) – E. Erol

Lecture 1: Energy, Food and Mobility in the Modern World Economy
Lecture 2: ‘The Age of Men’ and its Impact on Nature

** First Midterm Exam (Friday, March 23) **

Week 8 (March 27) – E. Erol

Lecture 1: Ideas About the Modern State
Lecture 2: The Rise of the Modern State

** Spring Break (April 2-8) **

Week 9 (April 10) – A. Altinordu

Lecture 1: The Age of Revolutions
Lecture 2: Social Movements
* *Global Connections*, pp. 202-211.
* The Sociology Project, Chapter 17, pp. 474-495.

Week 10 (April 17) – E. Erol

Lecture 1: Nationalisms
Lecture 2: Imperialisms and Orientalism
Week 11 (April 24) – E. Erol

Lecture 1: The Great War (1914-18)
Lecture 2: The Second World War (1939-45)

** Final Papers Due (Friday, April 27) **

** No class on May 1 **

Week 12 (May 8) – A. Altnordu

Lecture 1: Totalitarianism
Lecture 2: The Cold War and Decolonization

** Second Midterm (Friday, May 11) **

Week 13 (May 15): In-class Makeup Exam

Film Week Schedule:
There will be a short introductory talk at the beginning of the movie screening. A bonus question will be asked at the end of the film screening through the Top Hat system. Please attend your own section’s screening. Otherwise you will not be able to properly log into the Top Hat system at the end. You will receive points for correct answers only.

Film Week – Modern Times (2016, 87 mins)

March 6, 17:40-19:40 place TBA
Discussion Section Outline and Important Dates

Week 1 - (February 6): Introduction to the Course / What is Modernity
  • Two-hour discussion section with non-graded exercises in each hour.

Week 2 - (February 13): The Protestant Reformation / The Scientific Revolution
  • Two-hour discussion section with graded exercises in each hour.

Week 3 - (February 20): The Enlightenment / Secularization
  • Two-hour discussion section with graded exercises in each hour.

Week 4 - (February 27): The Industrial Revolution / The Great Divergence
  • Two-hour discussion section with graded exercises in each hour.

  • Outlines are due on Friday by the end of the day this (4th) week

Week 5 - (March 6): Film Week
  • Film screening followed by a bonus Top Hat question

Week 6 - (March 13): Migration and Urbanization / The Modern City
  • Two-hour discussion section with graded exercises in each hour.

  • Feedback sessions on the outlines in office-hours with the SL facilitators

Week 7 - (March 20): Energy, Food, and Mobility / ‘The Age of Men’ and its Impact on Nature
  • Two-hour discussion section with graded exercises in each hour.

  • First Midterm examination at the end of this (7th) week

  • Feedback sessions on the outlines in office-hours with the SL facilitators

Week 8 - (March 27): The Modern State
  • Two-hour discussion sections with graded exercises in each hour.

  • Preliminary draft voluntary submission due on Friday by the end of the day this (8th) week

  Spring Break (April 2-8)

Week 9 - (April 10): The Age of Revolutions / Social Movements
  • Two-hour discussion section with graded exercises in each hour.
Week 10 - (April 17): Nationalisms / Imperialisms and Orientalism

- Two-hour discussion section with graded exercises in each hour.

- **Feedback sessions on the preliminary drafts** in office-hours with the SL facilitators

Week 11 - (April 24): The World Wars

- Two-hour discussion section with graded exercises in each hour.

- **Final Papers are due** on Friday at the end of the day this (11th) week

Week 12 - (May 8): Totalitarianism / The Cold War and Decolonization

- Two-hour discussion section with graded exercises in each hour.

- **Second Midterm** examination at the end of this (13th) week

Week 13 - (May 15): Make-up week, no discussion sections

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**Golden Rules for the Discussion Sections**

- Don’t be late

No students are allowed into classes after the first 10 minutes. Be punctual and respect the classroom etiquette.

- No phones are allowed during discussion sections

Phones are distractive for you, your friends, and the facilitators. You should keep your phones in silent mode and away from you during class hours. Facilitators can ask you to leave the classroom if you disturb the flow of the discussions sections with your phone use. You might need to access to the Internet every now and then but you are only allowed to do that through tablets and laptops.

- Communicate in English

Language is best learned with practice. Discussion sections are safe environments to make mistakes and ask questions. Use this opportunity and communicate in English.

- Be patient and follow the instructions

You will be writing, listening, reading and talking a lot in an academic environment. It will initially feel intimidating and hard. Be patient, follow the instructions and work hard. Your language skills will improve throughout the semester and you will find things easier as you get used to the assignments, the terminology, and the overall logic of the course.