

**Middle East Technical University**  
**Department of Political Science and Public Administration**  
**ADM 5184 – IDEAS AND POLITICS**  
**Instructor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kürşad Ertuğrul**

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course aims to follow the two lines of philosophical and theoretical attempts that take social and political reality as “emergent, constructed, contested, interactive, and process-like”. These are constructivist and Gramscian theories which intersect in the case of critical constructivism. In these theories, the problematic of the “dialectical” relationship between “structure” and “agency” have been postulated in various ways while the ideational, discursive and reflective capabilities of “the subjects” have been attributed a constitutive role regarding the construction of “reality.” The recent “constructivist turn” especially in social and political theory and international politics has reflected the impact of these perspectives in social sciences with a growing body of works. Throughout the classes a critical engagement with “constructivism” will be promoted with the objective of assessing the promises and limitations of these theories in the social and political theory.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Students are expected to develop a term paper to be submitted by the end of the classes. Students should also submit essays on the readings on a regular basis.

## **PHILISOPHICAL AND THERORETICAL BACKGROUND**

Bourdieu, P. (1977) *Outline of A Theory of Practice*, Cambridge: CUP, pp.72-95

Giddens, A. (1984) *The Constitution of Society*, Cambridge: Polity, pp.1-40.

Sewell JR., William (2005) *Logics of History*, Chicago: Chicago University Press, pp.124-151.

Lefebvre, H. (2014) *Critique of Everyday Life, The One-Volume Edition*, London: Verso, pp.450-473.

## **‘CONSTRUCTIVIST TURN’ IN POLITICAL STUDIES**

Adler, E. (2005) ‘Constructivism and International Relations,’ in W. Carlsnaes, T. Risse and B.E. Simmons (eds) *Handbook of International Relations*. London: SAGE.

Berger, P. L. and Luckman, T. (1967) *The Social Construction of Reality*. New York: Anchor Books.

Burch, K. (2002) ‘Towards a Constructivist Comparative Politics,’ in D. M. Green (ed) *Constructivism and Comparative Politics*. New York: M.E. Sharpe.

Finnemore, M. and Sikkink, K. (2001) 'Taking Stock: The Constructivist Research Program in International Relations and Comparative Politics,' *Annual Review of Political Science*, 4: 391-416.

Jacobsen, J. K. (2003) 'Duelling constructivisms: a post-mortem on the ideas debate in mainstream IR/IPE,' *Review of International Studies*, 29: 39-60.

Kratochwil, F. (2000) 'Constructing a New Orthodoxy? Wendt's 'Social Theory of International Politics' and the Constructivist Challenge,' *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*, 29(1): 73-101.

Onuf, N. (1997) 'A Constructivist Manifesto,' in K. Burch and R. A. Denemark (eds) *Constituting International Political Economy*. London: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

Pouliot, V. (2007) "'Subjectivism': Toward a Constructivist Methodology", *International Studies Quarterly*.

Reus-Smith, C. (2005) 'Constructivism,' in, A. Linklater, R. Devetak, J. Donnelly, M. Paterson, C. Reus-Smith and J. True (eds) *Theories of International Relations* New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Wendt, A. (1999) *Social Theory of International Politics*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

## **TOWARDS A (NEOGRAMSCIAN) CRITICAL CONSTRUCTIVISM**

Gramsci, A. (1991) *Selections from Prison Notebooks*, London: Lawrence and Wishart, pp.323-377. Oxford: Blackwell, pp. 424-449.

Bieler, A. and Morton, A.D. (2001) 'The Gordian Knot of Agency-Structure in International Relations: A Neo-Gramscian Perspective,' *European Journal of International Relations*, 7(1): 5-35.

Braudel, F. (1980) *On History*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, pp. 25-55.

Cafruny, A. W. and Ryner, M. (2003). 'Introduction, The Study of European Integration in the Neoliberal Era' in A. W. Cafruny and M. Ryner (eds) *A Ruined Fortress? Neoliberal Hegemony and Transformation in Europe*. Oxford: Rowman and Littlefield.

Cox, R. (1996) 'Social Forces, States and World Orders: Beyond International Relations Theory,' in *Approaches to World Order*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Gill, S. (1993) 'Epistemology, Ontology, and the "Italian School,"' in S. Gill (ed) *Gramsci, Historical Materialism and International Relations*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Gill, S. (2003) 'A Neo-Gramscian Approach to European Integration,' in *A Ruined Fortress? Neoliberal Hegemony and Transformation in Europe*.

## **AN ALTERNATIVE TO STRUCTURE-AGENCY MODEL: ACTION AND INTERRUPTION**

Arendt, H. (2006) "What is Freedom" in *Between Past and Future*. London: Penguin.

Lefebvre, H. (2014) *Critique of Everyday Life, The One-Volume Edition*, London: Verso, pp.526-538.

Foucault, M. (1982) "The Subject and Power," In H. L. Dreyfus and P. Rabinow (ed) *Michel Foucault: Beyond Structuralism and Hermeneutics*: pp. 208-226. London: Harvester Wheatsheaf.

Foucault, M. 2007. "What is Critique?" In S. Lotringer (ed), *The Politics of Truth*: pp. 41-81. Los Angeles: Semiotext(e).

Foucault, M. (1997) "What is Enlightenment?" *Michel Foucault, Ethics, Essential Works of Foucault, 1954-1984*, Volume 1, ed. P. Rabinow, London, New York: Penguin Books.

Foucault, M. (1980) "Two Lectures", In Colin Gordon (ed), *Power/Knowledge, Selected Interviews and Other Writings 1972-1977*: pp.78-108. Hertfordshire: Harvester Wheatsheaf.

