Course description:
The course aims to familiarise students with the issues of neo-liberal transformation and changing understanding of labour market in Turkey throughout the 2000s, especially exacerbated with the heavy conditionality from international organisations such as the European Union, World Bank and International Monetary Fund. In this context, policy areas to be analysed include labour market, labour relations and labour law, gender equality, social security, employment, informal labour market and child labour.

For each issue, the course will provide an environment for the theoretical exploration of the issue in question, systematic exploration of the actual policy problems and situation in Turkey, the basic institutional and legal framework, as well as the policies made and implemented in Turkey, from a critical perspective.

Course requirements:
The course requires active participation of the students throughout the semester. All the students are expected to make in-class presentations on the reading material of their own choice. All the presentations will be discussed by the instructor and by other students in the class. Reading the course materials is a must. To ensure this, students are expected to prepare four reflection papers throughout the term. Overall grading will be based on the following elements:

In-class presentation (15%)
Each student will present and discuss in the classroom one of the articles of her/his own interest from the reading list. A guide for the presentations will be provided by the instructor.

Reflection papers (30%)
Each student will prepare three reflection papers throughout the semester on three different articles from the reading materials, as indicated by the instructor. Each reflection paper should be structured around a major concern/question derived from the reading materials, and discuss this concern in an analytical way. Additional guidelines and evaluation criteria for the reflection papers will be provided by the instructor. All the reflection papers MUST be uploaded to ODTÜ Class.

Final Exam (35%)
The final exam (in-class closed-book) will cover all the topics studied throughout the semester.

Participation (20%)
All the students are expected to actively participate in the in-class discussions. In addition, the students will prepare a short note about what they have learned from each presentation (0.5 points each, minimum 20 notes) and upload it to ODTÜ Class. Attendance, comments and questions in the class and consultation with the instructor are also considered as different forms of participation.
Some documentaries and movies relevant to the course topics:


Course Outline and Reading Materials

Week 1: Introduction: Labour market within the context of social policy (20 February 2017)

Week 2-3: Neo-liberal transformation of labour markets (27 February and 6 March 2017)


Week 4: Neo-liberal transformation of labour markets in Turkey (13 March 2017)


Week 5: Labour Market in Turkey (20 March 2017)

Week 6: Labour Relations (27 March 2017)
Akkaya, Yüksel (2002) “The working class and Unionism in Turkey under the shackles of the system and developmentism” in Balkan, N. and Savran, S. (eds), The Ravages of Neo-liberalism: Economy, Society and Gender in Turkey, Nova Publications, pp.129-144. (P)

Week 7: Labour Law (3 April 2017)
Week 8: Social Security Reform (10 April 2017)


Week 9-10: Gender Equality: Equal Opportunities, Anti-Discrimination and Women’s Employment (17 April and 24 April 2017)


İŞKUR (2009a) İŞKUR V. Genel Kurul Çalışma Raporu, Kasım 2009, Ankara. (ELECTRONIC COPY)

İŞKUR (2009b) İŞKUR V. Genel Kurulu İstihdam Politikası Önerileri. (ELECTRONIC COPY)


Week 13: Informal Labour Market and Child Labour (22 May 2017)


Informal Labour Market


**Child Labour**


**Workers’ Health and Safety**


* You can also watch two public lectures given by Guy Standing on this book “The Precariat: The New Dangerous Class” at:

  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FRNhtGtO9pg (The public lecture by Guy Standing on November 2, 2011)

  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-jJt-5i_dls (uploaded on 9 February 2012)

**Books in Turkish:**

Bora, Tanıl; Bora, Aksu; Erdoğan, Necmi; Üstün, İlknur (2011) “Boşuna mı Okuduk?” Türkiye’de Beyaz Yakalı İşsizliği, İletişim Yayınları, Ankara.
