

Dear Students,

We are very pleased that we could finally start face-to-face education and that we will see you among us, once again, upon a year and a half. As Department of Political Science and Public Administration, we are aware that the success of our undergraduate and graduate programs is based upon our ability to expand the university life as a public experience to every field, just as it is upon your academic performance.

Thus, we attach utmost importance to getting back to face-to-face education despite the conditions imposed by the Covid-19 Pandemic. Nevertheless, it is obvious and essential that a series of rules are to be observed by all, both our academic personnel and students, so that we could continue to remain in real touch in an uninterrupted manner, both in the classroom and on campus, in line with the principles prioritising public health. Points listed below have also been shared with all our academic personnel. We are confident that all our students will follow these rules to protect their individual health, as well as that of public.

1. Masks will not be removed in the classrooms. In the case of masks not being used, the academic personnel will issue a warning to the student, and if the warning goes ignored an official report will be prepared about the student violating this rule, to be passed on to department administration.
2. In that regard, no food or beverage consumption is allowed in the classroom, except for water.
3. It is extremely important to keep the physical safe distance in classrooms. Our students will be arranged to be seated in fixed locations, in a 2 meter distance diagonally.
4. You have been informed that class meetings will last 40 minutes and the breaks are 20 minutes long. During the breaks, please make sure that the classroom is totally emptied and the windows are open throughout, to facilitate clean air circulation in the meantime.
5. For every class, there will be a sitting plan prepared for that classroom and the schema of this plan will be sent to the academic staff. Having a fixed sitting plan is a pre-condition to trace back the risk map of Covid-19 infection. We are expecting you to determine a fixed location to seat yourself, encourage your classmates to do so, and to observe/sustain this plan by yourself throughout the term. This measure is by no means about taking attendance. As noted, our main goal is to prevent the spread of Covid-19 infection, taking potential risks into account.
6. As already known, Middle East Technical University had designated a series of rules for participation in face-to-face education and shared them with all personnel and students on 10 September 2021. Accordingly, **“for all students and all personnel to be able to enter classrooms, common areas for work and usage, they are required to have completed the vaccination procedures as per e-Nabız conditionalities; and students and personnel with incomplete vaccination are required to submit PCR test with a**

negative result, taken in the last three days, maximum, including the day of submission.”

Our university required the departments to set up monitoring committees to ensure that the aforementioned principles are to be observed, and accordingly our department established a Monitoring Committee for Covid-19. The duty of the committee is to ensure sustainable and smooth implementation of the principles/rules of face-to-face education as determined by our university.

We have two expectations from all our students:

- A- To forward your HES codes to the University at once, using the links sent to you early on.**
- B- That our students with incomplete vaccination get their PCR tests done taking the 72 hours time span into account, considering the undisputable primacy of public health.**

7. Our department's Monitoring Committee will follow-up on the condition of aforementioned students with missing/incomplete information and be in touch with them. If found present in the Faculty building or in the classrooms, those students will be asked to leave, and an official report about the violator will be passed on to department administration.

Once again, as Department of Political Science and Public Administration, we would like to emphasize that our priority and our desire is to have every single member of our Faculty community to be able to continue face-to-face education with you in a healthy manner. It is obvious that the issues raised above are the rules to be pursued so that that desire can be fulfilled. Wishing us all a beautiful, healthy and successful term to share together.

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