Course Objective. The course is designed to put forward the place of epistemology and methodology within social sciences and humanities, which are dominant explanatory types of social reality, in the context of the social/economic and political. This place will be determined both internally via the paradigms concerned and externally from the perspectives of critical theory and historical materialism. Methodological difference of this course is that, social sciences and humanities are not considered general abstract theories, but they are handled within the framework of the historical conditions from which they emerged. In this regard, general epistemology debate will be made on historical-economic ground. The place of epistemology will be analyzed historically in the context of social reality as a dependent variable of capitalist social reality (or formation). Furthermore, the place of the epistemology and methodology, will be problematised in the context of material bases (or substance) of the theory of science in Turkey.

Course Evaluation.

Annotations to be submitted by biweekly with in-class discussions.

Content.

Introduction

Week 1

General Epistemology

Recommended Readings
- Giuseppe Primiero(2008), Information and Knowledge-A Constructive Type-Theoretical Approach-, Springer.

**Must Reading (1)**.

**A. ECONOMY, POLITICS and SOCIETY**

**Economic/Social Foundations of Politics (Political Thought)**

**Week 2**

**Recommended Readings**
- Ellen Meiksins Wood (2008), *Citizens to Lords: A Social History of Western Political Thought from Antiquity to the Middle Ages*, Verso.

**Must Readings (2-3-4)**.

2

Discussion Session (1) on the Economic/Social Foundations of Politics.  
Week 3

Discussion Text (1).


B. EPISTEMOLOGIES

I. NOMOTETIC EPISTEMOLOGY

Social Sciences as a Paradigm  
(Economical and Political Sphere in the Context of the Formal Separation in Capitalist Society)

Week 4

Recommended Readings
- Russel Keat and John Urry (1975), Social Theory as Science, Routledge & Paul.

Empricism and Rationalism in the Context of Origins of Capitalism

- Michael J. Oakeshott (1962), Rationalism in Politics: and other Essays, Methuen.
- Fraser Cowley (1968), Critique of British Empricism, Macmillan.

**Must Readings (5-6).**


**Positivism**
*(Emergence or Construction of Positivism and Political Accumulation in France)*

**Week 5**

**Recommended Readings**
- Auguste Comte (1979), *Introduction to Positive Philosophy*, (translate. F. Fere), Bobbs Merrill.

**Logical Positivism (Fascism and Knowledge)**
- Herbert Simon (1982), *Models of Bounded Rationality*, MIT.

**Must Readings (7-8).**


**Discussion Session (2) on the Nomotetic Epistemology of Social Reality.**

**Week 6**

**Discussion Text (2).**


**II. IDIOGRAPHIC EPISTEMOLOGY**

**Humanities as a Paradigm**

*(Symbolic “Society” and “Social” Change in Prussia)*

**Week 7**

**Recommended Readings**

- Jürgen Habermas (1988), *On the Logic of the Social Sciences*, (translated by. S. W. Nielsen and J. A. Stark), MIT.

**Unification of the Cultural and Social Science: Max Weber or Rise of the Capitalism in Germany**

**Must Readings (9-10-11).**
- Christopher Norris (1997), “Hermeneutics, Anti-Realism and Philosophy of Science” [133-166], *Against Relativism- Philosophy of Science, Deconstruction and Critical Theory*, Blavkwell.

**Discussion Session (3) on the Idiographic Epistemology of Social Reality.**

**Week 8**

**Discussion Text (3)**
III. HISTORICAL MATERIALISM

Historical Materialism (Nature, Human and Society)

Week 9

Recommended Readings
- Karl Marx ([1867] 2011), Capital- A Critique of Political Economy-, Dover.¹
- Karl Marx (1977), Critique of Hegel’s Philosophy of Rights, Cambridge.
- Karl Marx ([1845] 1998), German Ideology including Theses on Feuerbach-, Prometheus.
- Ira Gerstein (1989), “(Re)Structuring Structural Marxism”, Rethinking Marxism, Vol. 2, No.1

- Stanley Aronowitz (1990), *The Crisis in Historical Materialism: Class, Politics and Culture in Marxist Theory*, University of Minnesota Press.
- Bob Jessop (1990), *State Theory-Putting Capitalist States in their Place–*, Polity.

**Must Reading (12-13-14).**


Discussion Session (4) on the Historical Materialism.

Week 10

Discussion Text (4)

Critical Theory and Critical Realism
(Economical and Political Crises in Germany)

Week 11

Recommended Readings
- David Held (1980), Introduction to Critical Theory: Horkheimer to Habermas, University of California.
- Jürgen Habermas (2001), İdeoloji Olarak Teknik ve Bilim, (Çev. Mustafa Tüzel), YKY.
- Andrew Sayer (2000), Realism and Social Science, Sage.

Must Readings (15-16).
  - Andrew Sayer (2000), Realism and Social Science, “Key Features of Critical Realism in Practice: A Brief Outline”, Sage, [10-22].

Discussion Session (5) on the Critical Theory of Social Reality.

Week 12

Discussion Text (5)
IV. POST-STRUCTURALIST/POST-MARXIST and POST-MODERN EPISTEMOLOGY

(Results of New Imperialism or Globalisation)

Post-Structuralist, Post-Modern, Post-Marxist Epistemology and Politics
Week 13

Recommended Readings
- Jean François Lyotard (1993), *Political Writings*, University of Minnesota Press.

Must Readings (17-18).
Discussion Session (6) on the Post-Structualist/Post-Marxist and Post-Modern Epistemology of Social Reality.

Week 14

Discussion Text (6).


C. IDEAMETRIC (ÖLÇÜCÜLÜK) APPROACH

Becoming and Formation (Oluş ve Biçimleniş)

Week 15


- Örsan Ö. Akbulut (2007), “(Bağımlı)Kamu Yönetimi Kuramına Doğru Bir Başlangıç Denemesi”, in *Küreselleşme, Ulus-Devlet ve Kamu Yönetimi*, Örsan Ö. Akbulut, TODAİE.
