

**SOCIAL AND POLITICAL STUDIES**  
**SYLLABUS**

<b>Course number:</b>	LIBE 140
<b>Semester:</b>	Spring 2026
<b>Time&amp;Location:</b>	FRIDAY, 15.00-18.00 DB20
<b>Course overview:</b>	<p>This is a course intended to provide students with basic insights, concepts, and tools from social and political sciences that they can use in this endeavor. The main objective is to develop an awareness of the local, national and global challenges that contemporary societies face, and the ability to approach these challenges from an informed, analytic, and questioning perspective. The course will have an interactive format where students will read texts critically, carry out research outside of class, and participate in group activities. Using a variety of tools like lectures, debates, videos, and surveys, we will explore topics collectively in class, and students will also have the opportunity to learn from each other. Throughout the semester, students will also be expected to think about and analyze their own lives in the context of the social and political developments of our time.</p>
<b>Instructor:</b>	<p>Dr. Bahar Oral Gündoğdu Email: bahar.oral@tedu.edu.tr Office: Office phone: Office hours: Tuesday 14.00-15.00 /Friday 15.00-16.00 or by appointment</p>
<b>Learning outcomes:</b>	<p>I. Engage with and demonstrate an understanding of major theoretical approaches that attempt to understand the major challenges confronting our societies, nation-states, and the world.</p> <p>II. Communicate ideas effectively and sensitively observing the guiding values of this course such as equality, diversity, multiculturalism, and tolerance.</p> <p>III. Complete research projects that investigate national and global challenges facing modern individuals and/or societies.</p> <p>IV. Develop the ability to look at themselves and their societies from a contextual and comparative perspective</p>

### **Course Materials & Rules**

Course readings will be uploaded to LMS by the instructors in installments. All students will be expected to have done the reading before coming to class. If needed, instructors will also post links to videos, websites or other sources that students are expected to study alongside the readings.

- Honesty is the cornerstone of all academic work. Therefore, all students will comply with TED University's 'principles of academic integrity'. Failure to do so will result in a failing grade in the course in addition to appropriate disciplinary action.
- This is an interactive course, and learning is most effective if you are ready and willing to contribute. Make sure to do the readings, and study any other supplementary material that your

instructor may upload. Think carefully and analytically about them, and about how they may be related to your own experiences. Your meaningful contributions to class discussions will benefit all of us.

- Group activities constitute an important component of the course. In these activities, students will be expected to be kind and open-minded toward each other. It is essential to learn from one another, and collaborate in a fair and productive way. Notify your instructor in case of inappropriate behavior in group activities.
- This is a course that encourages critical thinking, so we must expect differences of opinion. The classroom is a safe space for each student to express themselves and their *relevant* opinions without suffering any kind of derisive comments from other students. We ask that you show every person in the classroom the same kind of courtesy and respect that you expect in return, **regardless** of color, creed, sexuality, or religious background. You are encouraged to share your background and experiences in class; therefore, it is imperative that we maintain a free and warm intellectual environment so that we can provide the same respect to each and every individual student.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) use policy:

- You might use AI tools like ChatGPT to brainstorm, design of your poster, gathering and classifying data. However, if you use AI tools in your research project, you should note which process and how you use it. You should quote and cite AI sources as you do with other sources.
- You should know that AI-generated material might be biased, inaccurate, and incomplete.

## Assessment Tools

- After the add-drop week, attendance will be taken in lectures (more than 75% participation rate is rewarded with +5 points)
- Poster and oral presentation (20%)  
Student groups, usually consist of 6 (+/-1) team members will develop a research question in line with the themes of the course. Applying a social science methodology, each team will conduct a small-scale research. At the final week of the semester, each group will deliver a poster presentation, explaining their work and findings. Attendance to presentation week (both for delivering presentations and watching other groups' presentations) is **mandatory**.
- 2 quizzes (each 5%)  
Quizzes are given in class. Topics are announced one week in advance. Open-ended questions are asked in quizzes, and students are asked to respond by writing short paragraphs.
- Midterm exam (30%)  
As LIBE 140 is a multi-section course, the midterm exam is scheduled for a single weekend date to be determined during the semester. The assessment consists of true/false, multiple-choice, and fill-in-the-blank questions.
- Final exam (40%)  
The format of the final is same with the midterm exam.

## Course Schedule

All readings will be available on the LMS platform. The schedule of the course and assignments might be changed during the semester. Please refer to the course page on LMS platform for the updated information.

Course Week	Calendar Week	Themes
Week 1	9-13 Feb.	<b>Introduction</b>
Week 2	16-20 Feb.	<b>What is social? Basic approaches in sociology</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Excerpts from Sarah Tomley et al., The Sociology Book (DK, 2015)</li> <li>Excerpts from Henry Tischler Introduction to Sociology (Wadsworth, 2011)</li> <li>Excerpts from C. Wright Mills “The Promise” in The Sociological Imagination (Oxford University Press, 1959).</li> </ul>
Week 3	23-28 Feb.	<b>Introducing politics and political science</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sarah Tomley et al., The Politics Book (DK, 2013), extract 12-15.</li> <li>Kenneth Minogue. Politics: A Very Short Introduction. (Oxford University Press, 2000). Chapters 6&amp;11.</li> <li>Richard Whatmore. “Liberty in History.” In The History of Political Thought: A Very Short Introduction. (Oxford University Press, 2021).</li> </ul>
Week 4	2-6 Mar.	<b>Introduction to inequality and class</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kerry Ferris and Jill Stein The Real World 2nd ed. (New York: Norton, 2010), 211-28.</li> </ul>
Week 5	9-13 Mar.	<b>Gender inequality</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>James Fulcher and John Scott Sociology 4th ed. (Oxford University Press, 2011), 152-164.</li> <li>The Sociology Book (London: DK, 2015), 90-104.</li> </ul>
Week 6	16-20 Mar. Holidays: 19-20 Mar.	<b>Migration</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Haas, Castles, and Miller (2020) The Age of Migration (6th edition). Red Globe Press. 1-14. (The chapter “Introduction”)</li> </ul>
Week 7	23-27 Mar.	<b>Methods of research in social &amp; political studies</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Excerpts from Neuman, W. Lawrance, Social Research Methods, 7<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2014</li> </ul>
Week 8	30 Mar.-3Apr.	<b>Environmental issues</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Excerpts from documentaries and other resources will be announced)</li> </ul>
Week 9	6-11 Apr.	<b>Security &amp; conflict &amp; disasters</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Andrew Heywood. “ Chapter18 Security Domestic and International” in Politics (5th edition) (Red Globe Press, 2019)</li> </ul>
Week 10	13-18 Apr.	<b>Religion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Excerpts from K. Ferris and J. Stein. “Religion: The Social Meaning of Sacred Meaning” in The Real World (W W Norton, 2018).</li> </ul>
Week 11	20-24 Apr. Holiday: 23 Apr.	<b>Health &amp; mental health</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dalton Conley. You May Ask Yourself: An Introduction to thinking like a Sociologist (6th Ed.) (Princeton University, 2019) pp. 437-467</li> </ul>
Week 12	27Apr.-1May Holiday: 1 May	<b>Urban issues, space and geography</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sarah Tomley et al., The Politics Book (DK, 2013), extract 164-165</li> </ul>
Week 13	4-8 May	<b>Poster presentations</b> <b>NOTE: Participation to poster presentations week is mandatory!</b>
Reserve 1	11-15 May	<i>Make-up classes for missed weeks</i>
Reserve 2	18-21 May Holiday: 19 May	<i>Make-up classes for missed weeks</i>

## **Information about Student Services**

### Student Development and Psychological Counseling Center:

Student Development and Psychological Counseling Center conducts individual psychological counseling, group psychological counseling, preventive and developmental services such as workshops and seminars for all students in need. You may apply to our Center in order to deal with all your current problems.

For General Information: <https://csc.tedu.edu.tr/>

For Application: <https://anket.tedu.edu.tr/index.php/761882?lang=en>

### TEDU Without Barriers Unit:

Please inform the *TEDU Without Barriers* Unit and the instructor of the course about the specific issues in case you have a physical or mental disability and are having trouble with anything related to this course—such as accessing the material, participating in the class, taking notes, preparing for, attending or managing to complete the exams. Your situation will be reviewed by commission, in accordance with the principle of confidentiality, and if deemed appropriate, facilitating measures will be taken so that you can take the course more efficiently.

For further information and/or questions: [engelsiz@tedu.edu.tr](mailto:engelsiz@tedu.edu.tr), <https://www.tedu.edu.tr/engelsiz-tedu>

### TED University Commission for the Prevention of Sexual Harassment and Assault (CTS):

TED University Commission for the Prevention of Sexual Harassment and Assault (CTS) aims to create an academic research, learning, and working environment that is entirely free from all forms of sexual discrimination based on gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender-based assault, sexual harassment, sexual abuse or any other reason. To achieve these goals, our Commission carries out activities for the operation of necessary prevention, evaluation, support and empowerment, and sanction mechanisms. TED University Commission for the Prevention of Sexual Harassment and Assault Directive covers all university members, including TED University students and academic and administrative staff. All university members who think they have been sexually harassed and/or assaulted can apply to our Commission.

For further information or if you have questions, please visit CTS website at <https://www.tedu.edu.tr/en/tedu-commission-prevention-sexual-harassment-and-assault> and/or send an e-mail to [ctskomisyonu@tedu.edu.tr](mailto:ctskomisyonu@tedu.edu.tr)