

Syllabus

Title of the Course:	Conflicts and Struggles for Peace in the Age of Social Cohesion Crisis	Course Breakdown:	28 h. Online teaching, 180 h. Total workload for study
Name of the Instructor:	Ali Yalçın Göymen	Weekly class time:	Fridays 12:00 - 14:00 (CET)
Language:	English	Credit:	3 / 6 ECTS
Hosted by:	Department of Anthropology and Cultural Research and Political Sciences at Bremen University	Certificate issued by:	Bremen university

Description of the course

As Wendy Brown's seminal work *Undoing the Demos* masterfully sums it up, we live in an era of crisis – the crisis of social cohesion. This crisis makes people vulnerable to economic conditions and creates a social environment where seeds of hate, misogyny, xenophobia, etc. grow fast. Some nations are so polarized; they already seem to be on the verge of a civil war. A new type of political leadership emerged to exploit the masses' dissatisfaction, and people lose their intention to coexist with their fellow citizens. As such, conflicts have become the rule of governance in the authoritarian phase of neoliberalism.

This course aims at pointing out this authoritarian tendency from a critical peace studies perspective with a special regional focus on the political developments in Turkey. Our study of social conflicts and peace in Turkey will start by introducing different approaches to this topic and looking at neuroscientific, anthropological, and philosophical theories on the nature of conflict and peace. This investigation will provide us a solid foundation to be able to determine the historical conditions of conflict and peace in the era of crisis of social cohesion. In this regard, the essence of neoliberalism will be reviewed from the perspectives of both political economy and post-structuralist theories. After clarifying the conditions of the road to contemporary tyranny, the phenomena like social cohesion crisis, economization and elucidation of public sphere, and friend-enemy politics will be dealt with.

During the last years, we also witnessed some successful struggles against the authoritarian current. Black Lives Matter from the Global North and Peasants' Strikes from India are significant examples that could bring different demands of the left in Turkey and elsewhere with a focus on the needs of people who have suffered under the neoliberal rules for a long time. These movements were also successful in presenting that the old "normal" was the problem and the solutions to our current crisis lie beyond the old bourgeois normativity. That is why they will be evaluated as democratic and peaceful sprouts of future society. Throughout the course, special attention will be given to Turkish case, and examples such as the poisoning attitude of Turkish government against its female, LGBTQ, and Kurdish citizens will be analyzed.

Learning Aims

To provide a general understanding about:

- Multi-disciplinary approaches to peace
- Critical Peace Studies
- The Phenomena called Social Cohesion Crisis

Upon the successful completion of the course students will be able to:

- Elaborate on neoliberalism
- Conceive the interrelation between the crisis of neoliberalism on the authoritarian tide
- Signify the importance of the peace struggles around the globe

Course requirements

Course components include:

- Lectures
- Readings
- Discussions

The final grade for the course will be based on the following:

- For a 3 ECTS Performance, the students will hand the first 2 assignments over.
- For a 6 ECTS Performance, the students will hand all 3 assignments over. Their performance will be evaluated according to their 3rd Assignment's grade.

Outline of the Course Schedule

Week 1		<i>The objective of the course and expectations from the participants.</i>
Week 2	Assignment 1: Participants will be asked for preparation of an infographic based on the discussions of the Week 2 – Week 4.	<i>Discussion on social cohesion crisis and anthropological roots of conflict and peace.</i>
Week 3		<i>Discussion on social cohesion crisis and neuroscientific roots of conflict and peace.</i>
Week 4		<i>Discussion on social cohesion crisis and philosophical roots of conflict and peace.</i>

Week 5	Assignment 2: Participants will be asked for a short essay (3 pages max.) on the relation between neoliberalism, its crises, and peace.	<i>Discussion on political economic critiques of neoliberalism.</i>
Week 6		<i>Discussion on poststructuralist critiques of neoliberalism.</i>
Week 7		<i>Assessment of social and political meaning of the crisis of neoliberalism.</i>
Week 8		<i>Discussion of the economization and the loss of public sphere in authoritarian turn of neoliberalism.</i>
Week 9	Assignment 3: Participants will be asked for a longer essay (5 to 7 pages) on the struggles for peace and justice.	<i>Discussion of the friend-enemy politics in establishing the authoritarian regimes</i>
Week 10		<i>Discussion the nature and the merits of struggles of peace.</i>
Week 11		<i>Discussion the nature and the merits of struggles of peace.</i>
Week 12		<i>Discussion of the Turkish Political Regime's Politics of Hate against women and LGBTQ individuals.</i>
Week 13		<i>Discussion of the Turkish Political Regime's Demonization of Kurdish opposition.</i>
Week 14		<i>Final Reassessment of the Course</i>

Syllabus / Reading List

Week 1: Introduction to the Course

The objective of the course and expectations from the participants.

Week 2: Anthropological roots of conflict and peace

Discussion on social cohesion crisis and anthropological roots of conflict and peace.

- Fry, Douglas P. "The Human Potential for Peace: An Anthropological Challenge to Assumptions about War and Violence." Accessed March 15, 2021. <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/>

237066830_The_Human_Potential_for_Peace_An_Anthropological_Challenge_to_Assumptions_about_War_and_Violence/link/540d16cd0cf2dfo4e754779a/download

- Sponsel, Leslie. "Peace and Nonviolence: Anthropological Aspects." DOI:10.1016/B978-0-08-097086-8.96020-3

Week 3: Neuroscientific Roots of Conflict and Peace

Discussion on social cohesion crisis and neuroscientific roots of conflict and peace.

- Hull, Gérard, Jeanine. Making Peace with Conflict: Using Neuroscience to Ease Difficult Relationships, 2020, pp. 129-149.
- Burrell, Melinda and Barsalou, Judy. Neuroscience and Peacebuilding: Reframing How We Think About Conflict and Peace Report, 2015, https://beyondconflictint.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Neuroscience-and-Peacebuilding_v1.pdf

Week 4: Philosophical Roots of Conflict and Peace

Discussion on social cohesion crisis and philosophical roots of conflict and peace.

- Excerpts from Hobbes, Spinoza and Hegel

Week 5: Historical Conditions of Conflict and Peace in Our Time I Essence of Neoliberalism

Discussion on political economic critiques of neoliberalism.

- Shah, Anup. "A Primer on Neoliberalism." Accessed January 15, 2021. <https://www.globalissues.org/article/39/a-primer-on-neoliberalism>.
- Harvey, David. A Brief History of Neoliberalism. New York: Oxford University Press, 2007. pp. 39-64.

Week 6: Historical Conditions of Conflict and Peace in Our Time II Neoliberalism and Production of Subjectivity

Discussion on poststructuralist critiques of neoliberalism.

- Springer, Simon. "Neoliberalism as Discourse: Between Foucauldian Political Economy and Marxian Poststructuralism." Critical Discourse Studies 9, no. 2 (May 2012): 133-47. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17405904.2012.656375>.
- Mitchell, Dean, "The Secret Life of Neoliberal Subjectivity". Rethinking Neoliberalism: Resisting the Disciplinary Regime. Schram, Sanford F. and Pavlovskaya, Marianna (Eds.), New York: Routledge, 2018, 23-40.

Week 7: Historical Conditions of Conflict and Peace in Our Time III Crisis of Neoliberalism

Assessment of social and political meaning of the crisis of neoliberalism.

- Duménil, Gérard, and Dominique Lévy. “The Crisis of Neoliberalism,” n.d., 12.
- Saad-Filho, Alfredo. “Crisis in Neoliberalism or Crisis of Neoliberalism?” *Socialist Register* 47 (2011). <https://socialistregister.com/index.php/srv/article/view/14338>.
- Jessop, Bob. “Authoritarian Neoliberalism: Periodization and Critique.” *South Atlantic Quarterly* 118, no. 2 (April 1, 2019): 343–61. <https://doi.org/10.1215/00382876-7381182>.

Week 8: The Authoritarian Turn of Neoliberalism I Economization and Elucidation of the Public Sphere

Discussion of the economization and the loss of public sphere in authoritarian turn of neoliberalism.

- Madra, Yahya and Adaman, Fikret. “Neoliberal Reason and Its Forms: De-Politicisation Through Economisation”. *Antipode*, 46/3, June 2014, 691-716.
- Brown, Wendy. *Undoing the Demos*. New York: Zone Books, 2015, pp. 201-223.

Week 9: The Authoritarian Turn of Neoliberalism II Friend-Enemy Politics

Discussion of the friend-enemy politics in establishing the authoritarian regimes

- Schmitt, Carl. *The Concept of the Political*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, pp. 19-78.
- Benhabip, Sheila. *Brief Reflections on Populism*, Accessed on March 11, 2021 <http://blogs.law.columbia.edu/praxis1313/seyla-benhabib-brief-reflections-on-populism-left-or-right/>

Week 10: Struggle for Peace I: Black Lives Matter Movement

Discussion the nature and the merits of struggles of peace.

- Messersmith-Glavin, Paul. “Black Lives Matter and the Future of Humanity”. Accessed March 17\ 2021 <https://www.counterpunch.org/2020/12/29/black-lives-matter-and-the-future-of-humanity/29.12.2020>.
- Ransby, Barbara. “The Class Politics of Black Lives Matter”. Accessed March 01, 2021. <https://www.dissentmagazine.org/article/class-politics-black-lives-matter/>
- “Race and politics scholar weighs in on Black Lives Matter movement’s resurgence” Accessed March 08\ 2021. <https://www.brown.edu/news/2020-07-27/hooker/>

Week 11: Struggle for Peace II: Peasants' Strike in India

Discussion the nature and the merits of struggles of peace.

- Prashad, Vijay. "There are so many lessons to learn from Kerala". Accessed March 19, 2021. <https://mronline.org/2021/03/19/there-are-so-many-lessons-to-learn-from-kerala/>.
- Editors of Rupeindia. "The Indian farmers are right: their land is at stake (Part 1)". Accessed March 10\ 2021. <https://mronline.org/2021/02/10/the-kisans-are-right-their-land-is-at-stake-part-1/>.

Week 12: The Turkish Case I

Discussion of the Turkish Political Regime's Politics of Hate against women and LGBTQ individuals.

- Ronay Bakan and Özlem Tunçel. Women's Struggle in Turkey. Accessed March 17\ 2021. <https://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/womens-struggle-turkey>.
- Büyükgöze, Selime, The Istanbul Convention: A Chronicle of the Feminist Struggle. Accessed March 14, 2021 <https://www.gwi-boell.de/en/2020/10/05/istanbul-convention-chronicle-feminist-struggle>.
- Logrono, Rafael. Students in Turkey Are Standing Up for LGBT Rights. March 15, 2021. <https://www.thenation.com/article/world/turkey-lgbt/>.

Week 13: The Turkish Case II

Discussion of the Turkish Political Regime's Demonization of Kurdish opposition.

- Kingsley, Patrick. "Amid Turkey's Purge, a Renewed Attack on Kurdish Culture" Accessed March 19, 2021. <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/29/world/middleeast/amid-turkeys-purge-a-renewed-attack-on-kurdish-culture.html>.
- McKernan, Bethan. "Turkey: the rise and fall of the Kurdish party that threatened Erdoğan". March 03, 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/dec/27/as-erdogan-tightens-grip-on-power-last-opposition-politicians-resist-brutal-purge>.
- Koontz, Kayla. Turkey's Parliamentary Purge and The HDP's Dilemma Report, 2020. Accessed March 21, 2021. <https://www.mei.edu/publications/turkeys-parliamentary-purge-and-hdps-dilemma>.

Week 14: Final Reassessment