



ERASMUS+ Blended Intensive Programme

2024/2025 Academic Year Spring Semester

Ankara University Faculty of Political Science

History of Civilizations Through Archeopolitics

Online dates 28 April-9 May 2025

In-person dates in Bodrum 12-16 May 2025

Paper Submission date 20 June 2025

It has become more visible after the Covid-19 pandemic that the world is going through a very important transformation process. Understanding what we are going through and thinking about what awaits us in the future has become the most fundamental subject of study for all those interested in different sub-branches of political science. The effort to understand radical changes that we have never witnessed before inevitably leads us to take a closer look at Human History. For understanding the reasons of similar radical changes in the past and seeing how they happened can well provide us with some guiding data about the present and the future. Political Science, which in fact conventionally focuses on analyzing the present and predicting the future, has nowadays turned its gaze to the past more than ever. In this context, fields such as archeology and anthropology, which are likely to provide the oldest information, are increasingly attracting the attention of Political Scientists. Increasing technology also has a great impact on the increasing acceptance of the view that in order to understand “what is above the ground”, we need to look at “what is underground”. Because technology-supported archaeological studies are now providing serious data about the lives of past people and the law and order they established. At this point, "Anatolia" also has a special importance. For it has become increasingly clear that Anatolia has a very special and pioneering place in the Neolithization process, which resulted in the institutionalization of settled farming societies that gave rise to the very first city-States established in Mesopotamia.

Based on this understanding, the program will focus on two main subjects, ie. “Law and Order in Stateless Societies” and “The Invention of State and Its Evolution”. Thus the "50 thousand years of human history" will be re-evaluated basically in the light of the latest data particularly unearthed in recent (mostly Neolithic) excavations in Anatolia.

The course is at Master's level. Moreover, the undergraduate students can take the course provided that at least 3.00 GPA as well as necessary English language level (B1).

The course is mainly for Archaeology, Political Science, International Relations, and for other Social Science programs. Yet, there is not any prerequisite so any student from any program can take the course.

Part I (28 April-9 May 2025)	ONLINE	LAW AND ORDER IN STATELESS SOCIETIES
Session 1 (28 April 2025)	On-line	Conceptual-Theoretical Framework - Prof. Dr. Prof. Dr. Erdem DENK
Session 2 (30 April 2025)	On-line	Stateless societies of the Stone Age (50,000-10,000) Prof. Dr. Erdem DENK
Session 3 (2 May 2025)	On-line	The process of settlement, the birth of the first villages and the first cosmopolitan areas (10,000-8,000) Prof. Dr. Erdem DENK
Session 4 (5 May 2025)	On-line	The Birth of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry and the First Mega-Settlement of Çatalhöyük (8-6 Thousand BC): Prof. Dr. Erdem DENK
Session 5 (7 May 2025)	On-line	The Spread of the Neolithic in Europe Prof. Dr. Erdem DENK
Session 6 (8 May 2025)	On-line	The Birth of Centralized Bureaucracy Prof. Dr. Erdem DENK
Session 7 (9 May 2025)	On-line	Bronze Age States (4-2 Thousand BC) Prof. Dr. Erdem DENK

PART II (12-16 May 2025)	IN-PERSON (BODRUM)	THE INVENTION OF STATE AND ITS EVOLUTION
SESSION 8 12 May 2025 (9.30-12.30)	In-person (Bodrum)	Opening Lecture Speaker: Prof. Dr. Mehmet Özdoğan The Process Leading to the Formation of the State from an Archaeology Perspective
SESSION 9 13 May 2025 (9.30-12.30)	In-person (Bodrum)	The Challenge of the Barbarians of the Steppes with the Settlements Prof. Dr. Erdem DENK
SESSION 10 14 May 2025 (9.30-12.30)	In-person (Bodrum)	The Achaemenid Empires as a Forerunner of the Empires of Middle Ages Prof. Dr. Erdem DENK
SESSION 11 15 May 2025 (9.30-12.30)	In-person (Bodrum)	The Roman Empire: Europe in the Making? Prof. Dr. Erdem DENK
SESSION 12 16 May 2025 (9.30-12.30)	In-person (Bodrum)	The 1492 Affect: Invention of the West and Its Liberal World Order Prof. Dr. Erdem DENK
SESSION 13 16 May 2025 (13.30-16.30)	In-person (Bodrum)	The Globalization Affect: Westlessness-Illiberal World Order Prof. Dr. Erdem DENK