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The Principle of the Course:
The course will scrutinize Turkish Foreign Policy (TFP) in a global and regional perspective. The main objective of the course is to provide a framework for TFP on the principles of realpolitik. A rationalist approach will be taken to present a notion of TFP that helps distinguishing facts and conspiracies. The students are expected to develop skills to analyze TFP with comparisons of the actors, the interests of those actors, the clash of interests and the events that reveal all of them.

Focus of the Course:
The flow of the semester will follow the developments regarding Turkey’s relations with global and regional powers. The first topic is the relations with the United States of America. After a brief historical study of the history of Turkey’s strategic partnership with the US in the 20th century, the following discussions problematize the current efforts to re-construct confidence in the relationship in the context of the uncertainty brought by the conflict of interest in Syria. What have made these two states to co-operate, why have they failed to develop an adequate level of trust in each other, what are the elements of current problems, and how will the future of the relationship be shaped? The questions will be raised with a specific focus on the agreement between two states to establish a safe-zone in northern Syria.

The second topic is Turkey’s relationship with the Russian Federation. The brief study of the history of this relationship, which has fluctuated between conflict and collaboration since the imperial era, will be followed by a discussion on the current affair that will search for the possibility of Russian Federation’s becoming new partner to replace Turkey’s Western counterparts. Therefore, the discussions will concentrate on the conditions and obstacles for furthering Turkey’s co-operation with the Russian Federation on various fields including the conflict in Syria, defense industry, and energy politics and will seek for the prospect of turning this co-operation into a regional bloc. The discussions will focus on the Astana Peace Process, aimed ending the conflict in Syria, and its test in the Idlib province. Relatedly, Turkey’s relations with Iran and China will be covered to discuss the development of the Eurasian concept in the Turkish Foreign Policy as an answer to the question on Turkey’s position within the counter-globalization of the East.

The third topic is the European Union in the context of Brexit. Following the historical study of the Turkey’s accession process to the EU focusing on the reasons for the failure of it, considering the leave of the United Kingdom from the Union, the future of the EU as a union and as a significant global actor will be questioned to discuss the viability of it for Turkey as an option. By so, the possibilities of reconciliation of Turkey-EU relations will be searched. Is the integration still a possibility; if so, how could the parties initiate it again; if not, how could they establish an adequate relationship?

The fourth topic is the development of the tension in the Eastern Mediterranean triggered with the discovery of carbon resources in the context of the lack of determination of the offshore sovereign rights of the coastal states. The main challenge of Turkey on this topic, which is the formation of regional energy cooperation among Egypt, Israel, “Cyprus,” and Greece that is excluding Turkey, will be handled with consideration of settling of Russian Federation in the region thanks to their engagement to the Syrian crisis. The discussions are expected to mention the relevant issues like the Aegean dispute, “Cyprus” dispute, and Israeli-Turkish relations.

If needed, the course schedule will be revised according to new developments in TFP and world politics in general. In that case, any revision will be announced beforehand.
Process of the Course:

A weekly session is completed in two parts. The first part is reserved for the lecture and the second part to the open discussions. Guest speakers on the topics covered in the lectures may be hosted throughout this semester.

Students are expected to participate in the course discussions actively. Evaluation is based on the quality of the oral comments raised during the sessions, and attendance. **Evaluation of attendance and active participation during open discussions will constitute 50% of overall grade.**

The syllabus will not provide a reading list for students. Students are expected to follow developments from news agencies and analyses published in major media organs. They are strongly encouraged to share those pieces.

Students will take a final take-home examinations in which they will answer a specific question asked by the lecturer. **Evaluation of the papers will constitute 50% of overall grade.**