

MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY
Department of Political Science and Public Administration

ADM 4145
Turkish Foreign Policy
Spring 2019

Course Hours: Wednesday 13.40–16.30
Course Venue: F108

Ambassador (R) Ertan Tezgör

E-mail: tezgor.ertan@gmail.com

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 context of the course this semester is the new form of the globalization. Therefore, the political contradictions over the direction of the globalization and placing Turkey within the new framework will be the central theme of the semester. To find answers to the questions of "*Where the world is heading towards in the 21st century*" and "*Where's Turkey's exact position?*", the constant investigation will focus on the topics like the political change brought by the successes of populist anti-globalism in the West and its impacts on the political organizations of the Western bloc, the limitations to this wave, and the counter-globalization of the East.

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 discussions problematizes the future of the relationship in the context of instability and uncertainty brought by the Trump administration's approach to foreign policy. 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 second topic is the Middle Eastern affairs with a primary concern of the Syrian crisis. Turkey's position in the ongoing peace processes of Geneva and Astana will be taken into consideration with Turkey's ongoing and possible future military interventions in Northern Syria. Relatedly, the discussion covers the relations with Iran by problematizing the future of Turkey's partnership with Iran in the Syrian peace process and US sanction, and the possible areas of conflict caused by the regional power struggle. Lastly, the energy politics in the Eastern Mediterranean will be discussed by handling the regional cooperation that excludes Turkey. The third topic is the European Union. After a historical study of the accession process focusing on the reasons for the failure of it, the course covers the current situation in the context of Brexit. This framework is expected to open a discussion on the possibilities of reconciliation of Turkey-EU relations. 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 Turkey's Eurasian or Asian alternative. The discussion on the topic 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 and energy politics and will seek for the possibilities of turning this co-operation into a regional bloc. Relatedly, Turkey's relations with China will be covered to discuss Turkey's position within the counter-globalization of the East.

If needed, the course schedule will be revised according to new developments in TFP and the 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, assigned presentations and attendance. Evaluation of attendance and active participation during open discussions will constitute 50% of overall grade: %30 of it is for participation in the discussion, %20 of it for the weekly attendance.

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 two take-home examinations in which they will answer a specific question asked by the lecturer. Papers are expected to be **two pages at maximum (1000 words)**. Evaluation of the papers will constitute 50% of overall grade as each paper makes up %25 of it.