

MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY
Department of Political Science and Public Administration

ADM 4145
Turkish Foreign Policy
Fall 2018

Course Hours: Wednesday 13.40–16.30
Course Venue: F108

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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 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 major powers. The priority will be the relations with the United States of America. The first weeks of the semester will be devoted to the historical study of Turkey's *strategic partnership* with the US in the 20th century that points out the areas of co-operation and conflict. What did make these two states to co-operate; why did they fail to develop an adequate level of trust in each other? Current situation and the future of this relation will be discussed with references to these questions. The second topic will be the relations with the European Union. After a historical study of the integration process focusing on the reasons for the failure of it, the course will cover the current affairs in the EU and current situation of the US-EU relations. 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 relation? The third topic will be Turkey's Eurasian 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 Iran and China will be covered to discuss Turkey's position within *the counter-globalization* of the East. Lastly, the course will cover the Middle-Eastern affairs with a specific focus on the newly emerging regional formation around the Gulf states.

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.

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 one take-home examination at the end of the semester in which they will answer a specific question asked by the lecturer. Papers are expected to be **four pages at maximum (1500 words)**. Evaluation of the paper will constitute 50% of overall grade.