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 course will search for initiatives to overcome the challenges in Turkey’s foreign relations in three naturally interrelated issues.

The first issue is the problem in the Eastern Mediterranean Region. It is observed that tension is maturing in the region following the discovery of carbon resources in the context of the lack of determination of the coastal states’ offshore sovereign rights. It is expected that the strain will trigger Turkey’s still unresolved foreign policy problems: The Cyprus and the Aegean Sea disputes. These problems will be covered with consideration of their relation to two recent developments: The formation of regional energy cooperation among Egypt, Israel, “Cyprus,” and Greece that is excluding Turkey; and Turkey’s involvement in the conflict in Libya by signing an agreement on the exclusive economic zone with the Government of National Accord.

The second issue, Middle Eastern politics, will be covered by focusing on two topics. The first one is the conflict in Syria, which erupted as a critical scene of the Arab Spring, and transformed into a deadlocked proxy war of regional and global actors as a result of their direct involvement in the last decade. In this turbulent context defined with the destruction of the country, mass human rights violations, mass migration, and rise of jihadist movements, Turkey’s involvement to the conflict has transformed with the three direct successful military operations engaged as a result of concerns about national security. The second topic is the rising tension between Iran and the USA. Following the Trump administration’s decision of 2018 to withdraw from the nuclear deal signed in 2015, which is followed by extension of sanctions on Iran, the tension reached to a level of hot confrontation in Iraq’s territory in the first weeks of 2020. The discussions in the course will try to find reasonable steps to be taken by Turkey in a conflict-ridden political agenda of the region.

The third issue is Turkey's relations with the great powers, i.e., the United States of America and the Russian Federation. The first topic will cover Turkey's relationship with the US. Despite the alliance since 1945, Turkish-American relations got tense in the last decade. It is observed that even though the parties have lost confidence in each other due to the disagreement on several issues, primarily being the conflict of interest in Northern Syria, they are also in an effort to reconstruct the broken confidence. In this context, the course will study the main dynamics and problems of the relationship, question the developments that have shaken the alliance, and search for the possibilities for a healthy continuation of it.

The second topic is Turkey's relationship with the Russian Federation, which has fluctuated between conflict and collaboration since the imperial era. After a one year of frozen relations as an outcome of Turkey's downing a Russian jet on the Syrian border, the parties normalized their relationship and deepened the cooperation, which has an appearance of a product of the relations between two presidents. The improved collaboration in areas, such as the conflict resolution, the defense industry, and energy politics, have led to a debate on the possibility of Russian Federation's becoming a new partner to replace Western counterparts. Therefore, the discussions will concentrate on the conditions and obstacles for furthering this co-operation.
If needed, the course schedule will be revised according to new developments in TFP and world politics in general. In the case of update or inclusion, 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.

Students are expected to participate in the course discussions actively. Each student is expected to make a short presentation on a asked topic, which should not exceed five minutes. Evaluation is based on the quality of the oral comments raised during the sessions, the presentation and attendance. **Evaluation of attendance, presentations, and active participation during open discussions will constitute 60% 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 40% of overall grade.**