

MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY
Department of Political Science and Public Administration

ADM 4145
Turkish Foreign Policy I
Spring 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 in this semester is the civil war and disputes in Syria. Therefore, the central theme of the course is the political contradictions regarding the future of Syria and their impacts on TFP. To find the answers to the questions of “*How is Syria’s future being shaped?*” and “*How is Turkey involving to the process?*”, the constant investigation will focus on topics that determine the course of TFP like new developments in the Northern Syria and Northern Iraq, the Russian presence in the Eastern Mediterranean, the future of Western interventionism, sectarian dimensions of politics in the Middle East.

The flow of the semester will follow the developments in Syria as the primary problem will be the response of Turkey to them. Within this context, Turkey’s position regarding the Assad regime in Syria and the so-called emergence of state entity in Northern Syria have priority in the discussions. It is a two-fold discussion. On the one hand, the problematic Turkish – American relations will be reviewed with a study of contemporary the US policy on the Middle East. The New National Security Strategy put forward by Trump administration will be studied with a focus on the US armament of terrorist PYD/YPG forces in Northern Syria, emergence of a regional block composed of Israel, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, which are both connected to concerns regarding empowerment of Iran. Within this conditions, the discussions during the semester will try to anticipate the new segments of the US-Turkey tension with an awareness of a possibility of detachment of Turkey from the Western block. On the other hand, the development of a Eurasia concept in the TFP following the Russian-Turkish cooperation in Syria will be handled. The possibilities of formalization of the de facto regional union of Russian Federation, Turkey, Iran and Iraqi central government will be debated with its limitation posed by questions on the future of Assad regime in Syria. As a supplementary to this two-fold discussion, the course will handle on the ambiguous positions of European powers on Syria. Apart from global and regional dynamics, the local dimensions of the new alignments of Turkey will also be handled to study the role of domestic politics in the formation of foreign policy.

If needed, our 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.

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.