Content and Aim of the Course:

Turkish Foreign Policy will be dealt within a global and regional perspective. Therefore, regional dimensions of TFP will be discussed in this semester. We will be focusing on recent developments in Middle East, mainly in Syria. Within the context of TFP and Syrian War, repercussions of war will be covered with the topics of situation emerged after deployment of Russian Federation in Eastern Mediterranean, ambiguous US policy on Syria, refugee crisis as main concern of EU, involvement and role of Iran in the conflicts in Middle East, sectarian dimensions of conflicts in the region, the future of Syrian Kurds, the hesitations of Egypt and Israel over uncertain future shape of Syria, uncertain future of Iraq and its role in the war, involvement of Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

If needed, schedule will be revised according to the new developments in TFP and world politics in general. In that case, any revision will be announced in advance.

Student Presentations

Every student will make a presentation on one of the topics elaborated in the course. Presentations must cover the recent foreign policy developments related with the given topic. Students are expected to make research using official documents provided by Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Turkish daily newspapers and databases of influential journals like Foreign Policy, The Financial Times, Newsweek, The Economist, Sputnik International. 2 (two) students will present the issue in a discussant manner. Each presentations will last maximum 10 (ten) minutes.

Presentations must provide the actual situation and be elaborative, analytical, and critical rather than just a summary of the topic. Topics of the presentations will be determined weekly according to developments in the foreign policy. No power point slide show is allowed for presentations. Your presentation will constitute 30% of overall grade.
The following criteria should be taken into consideration before organizing your presentation:

- The presentation must have a “research question”.
- The presentation should not be a summary of certain article/articles that you have read while structuring the content and also not to be wikipediatics.
- The presentation should contain a broad question that should be opened up further discussion.
- At the end of your presentation, every member of the course should be able to leave the class with 2-3 key arguments in mind you made during the presentation.

Papers

Students are expected to submit one policy paper (policy brief) on one of the topics covered in the semester. Policy paper is expected to be 2000 words (approx. 4-5 pages - Times New Roman, 12 pt, 1.5 space, 1.30 cm from top margin and 2.5 cm from left, right and bottom margins - bibliography excluded). Policy paper is expected to provide comprehensive arguments justifying selected policy recommendation among alternatives. Thus, evaluation will be based on the strength of the argumentation. Papers will be submitted at the end of the semester.

A policy paper should include:

1- Introduction

The introduction sets the scene by presenting the context for the policy problem and linking this to the specific focus of the policy paper.

The introduction demonstrates that an urgent problem exists and that your paper is worth reading because it will offer possible solutions to the problem. The introduction will include a statement on the purpose of the policy paper and a brief overview of the methodology used.

The introduction may conclude with a road map, showing how the paper is organized.

2- Problem Description

The problem description identifies, defines and elaborates the nature of the problem being discussed. This may include;

- the background of the problem (the history of the problem: its causes; who is affected; past policies and their outcomes); and

- the current status of problem (the current extent and impact of the problem, who is affected, the current policy and its successes and failures).

3- Policy Options
This section outlines, evaluates and compares the possible policy alternatives. All possible policy options should be presented to build a comprehensive and convincing case.

The focus is on evaluating how each option compares in solving the specific problem. On the basis of this evidence an argument is made for the preferred policy alternative.

4- Conclusions and recommendations:

This section clearly presents the case to decision makers and provides a call to action. This section provides a concise synthesis of major findings.

This is more than a summary of the main findings, but highlights links with the main policy recommendations that follow.

Finally, the reader is provided with a set of policy recommendations - practical steps that needs to be taken to implement the proposed policy option.

5- Bibliography

A bibliography provides a list of the sources that you used to develop your argument. Readers may want to refer to these references. It provides them with a comprehensive guide to the current literature on the topic which they may use in their own work.

Each paper will constitute 50% of the overall grade.

Student Participation

Every student is expected to be present in each session. Students are expected to read the required material, and follow the recent developments in TFP. They are strongly encouraged to express their views and contribute in discussions. Participation to class discussions together with attendance will constitute 20% of the overall grade.

Exams

There will be no mid-term or final for the evaluation.