

**Turkish American Relations**  
**SUNY New Paltz**  
**Spring 2012**  
Tuesdays 9:25 am - 12:05 pm  
Coykendall Science 029

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**Course Description**

This course is designed to introduce students to the study of Turkish politics and foreign policy with a special perspective on relations with the United States. The course will be run simultaneously with a partner institution class from Sehir University in Istanbul. Students will get a chance to collaborate with peers from Turkey on several projects. The relations between the United States and Turkey have been historically strong especially during the height of the Cold War. There have been disagreements on policy between the countries over Cyprus, Iraq and the Kurds, Syria and Iran. Yet, both sides identify the alliance between the US and Turkey vital to their national interests. United States and Turkey have common interests under NATO, over EU issues, energy policy among others. The course will focus on creating a broad understanding of Turkish foreign policy and American foreign policy toward Turkey as well as develop understanding over specific issues of contention (Iraq, Iran, Syria, and Israel) and cooperation (EU, energy).

**Course Objectives**

Students are expected to

- familiarize themselves with Turkish politics and political system,
- develop skills in reading foreign policy texts and identify the main argument,
- build knowledge about the Turkey in relation to the Middle East, European Union and the United States.
- to develop skills of cross cultural communication. The ability to communicate with people who may have a different perspective on issues is essential part of diplomacy. As students of political science and international relations, disagreeing without offending and also finding common grounds of understanding issues through compromise is an essential skill to develop.
- to write argument driven papers and response papers about a specific foreign policy question.
- to develop debate and discussion skills.

**Course Requirements**

**Attendance and Class Activities**

Students are required to attend class regularly and participate in other on-line assignments and activities in a timely fashion (unless excused in advance or there is proof of emergency). Do not come to class late. Be mindful that this class depends on student participation on line as well as in class. Due to time differences with Turkey, we need to be diligent about our responsiveness and responsibility toward the partner institution.

During class time, if you walk in late, you are responsible for getting the instructor to mark you present after class. After the first late arrival, all other late arrivals will be counted as absences. 2 unexcused absences will lead to a 0 for attendance grade (a deduction of the full 15 % of the grade). Missing

scheduled on line meetings and discussions with partners in Turkey will also be treated as unexcused absences and will result in significant deduction of grade.

Participation is a large part of your grade in this course. If you come to all classes but do not participate in the discussion you will earn only 5 points out of 15. Come to class prepared to participate. This class is participation driven (again participation means on line as well as in class). The in class portion of the course will be run like a seminar where the students are expected to participate in discussions related readings rather than lectures. I would like our discussions to be focused on the relevant topic, but the expression of varying viewpoints is encouraged. Some of these discussions will cover issues upon which we may not all agree. While it is expected that you will develop your own views, it is important that everyone be willing to hear alternative viewpoints and that we treat one another with respect regardless of whether we agree or disagree.

### **Readings**

Readings will be posted on Blackboard Reading Assignments

You must do all the readings for the week before coming to class. Additional readings that are not included in the syllabus may be assigned by the instructor.

### **Exams**

There will be two written in class exams. No make up exams are given unless you get an approval from the instructor prior to the exam with a valid excuse or bring evidence of a valid excuse after the exam such as a doctor's note.

The instructor will post relevant information for the course on blackboard. You are required to use blackboard and thus must obtain an email account. More information will be distributed in class.

Paper Assignments and follow up discussion reflections:

### **Grading Policy**

Mid Term Exam 1	20%
Final Exam	25%
Paper Assignment 1&Discussion Reflection	15%
Paper Assignment 2	15%
Joint Presentation	10%
Attendance and Participation	15%
Total	100%

### **ATTENTION!!!**

**You are responsible for all of the policies explained in this syllabus. Ignorance of these policies is not an acceptable excuse for failing to meet the course requirements. You are encouraged to read over this syllabus very carefully and refer to it regularly throughout the course. On rare occasion, changes in policy which supersede the syllabus may be announced in class. You are responsible for knowing any updated policies regardless of whether you were in attendance when new policies were announced.**

**Note: It is the policy of SUNY New Paltz to provide reasonable accommodation for qualified individuals with disabilities. Students in need should contact the Disability Resource Center in room 205 of the Student Union Building or phone (845) 257-3020 for more information.**

**Note: Students should be aware of and adhere to all college academic integrity policies in regard to cheating, forgery, and plagiarism.**

**Note: If questions arise about class cancellations or delays due to snow or other conditions call 257-INFO.**

## **Turkish American Relations Course Outline**

1) January 24 (classes begin in New Paltz)

Introduction to Turkey

Brief history of Turkey and the late Ottoman period

Reading:

Introductory Text

Martin Sampson, *The Republic of Turkey* (from McGraw Hill Intro to Comparative Politics Textbook). Available

2) Jan 31

Introduction to Turkish Politics

Brief history of the Turkish Republican era/politics

Readings:

1-Nora Onar, "Kemalists, Islamists, and Liberals: Shifting Patterns of Confrontation and Consensus, 2002-06" *Turkish Studies* No. 2, 273-288, June 2007

2- Ziya Öniş, "Conservative globalists versus defensive nationalists: political parties and paradoxes of Europeanization in Turkey" *Journal of Southern Europe and the Balkans*, Volume 9, Number 3, December 2007

3- [http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/12/27/the\\_turkish\\_roundabout?page=full](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2011/12/27/the_turkish_roundabout?page=full)

3) Feb 7

Turkish foreign policy and international relations

Reading:

1- Feroz Ahmad, *The Historical Background of Turkey's Foreign Policy*.

2- William Hale, *Turkey and the Cold War: Global Shifts and Regional Conflicts, 1964-1990*.

4) Feb 14

Post Cold War and Contemporary issues in Turkish politics

Readings:

1-Ahmet Davutoğlu, "Turkey's Foreign Policy Vision: An Assessment of 2007", *Insight Turkey*, vol.10, no.1, (2008), 77-96.

2- Hasan Kösebalaban, An Emerging Power in the Age of Globalization, in *Turkish Foreign Policy*, pp 146-186

**Exam for SUNY students**

## Joint sessions Begin

### 5) Feb 21

Introductions.

9:25-10:40

*Assignment 1- Let's get to know each other:*

- 1) Create a profile page on BB- put a picture, tell the class about yourself
  - a. Upload a picture of yourself and one of the following your street or your home.
- 2) Have an on-line or skype chat with your partner from Turkey. Ask them questions like:
  - a. Where do you live? Tell me a little bit about your neighborhood in your home town.
  - b. Who do you live with? Tell me a little bit about your home and home life.
  - c. What is a typical Saturday like for you?
  - d. What is the area of political science/international relations that interests you the most and why?
- 3) Write a profile reflection string introducing your partner to the class.

10:50- 12:05 Turkish American Relations

Guest Lecture: Lew Brownstein on American foreign policy and relations with Turkey

Readings:

1- Steven W. Hook. United States Foreign Policy- Paradox of World Power Chapters 1-3, pp1-90.

### 6) Feb 28

American foreign policy and relations with Turkey

(Reaction paper due Feb 28 on BB)

Readings:

1- Hearing before the Committee on Foreign Affairs House of Representatives One Hundred Eleventh Congress Second Session July 28, 2010 **Serial No. 111-113** Printed For the Use of the Committee on Foreign Affairs (Video also available to watch)

2- Steven A. Cook Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall, *Generating Momentum for a New Era in U.S.- Turkey Relations* CSR NO. 15, JUNE 2006, Council on Foreign Relations.

(Turkish-American Relations in the age of emerging global powers):

3- [http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/06/01/how\\_do\\_you\\_say\\_frenemy\\_in\\_Turkish](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/06/01/how_do_you_say_frenemy_in_Turkish)

4- Graham E. Fuller, "Brazil and Turkey Shift Global Politics", *New Perspectives Quarterly*, [Volume 27, Issue 3](#), pages 23-25, Summer 2010.

Paper Assignment 1: (due February 28 on Blackboard)

### **7) March 6**

Relations with the Middle East: General introduction and understanding US Foreign Policy in the Middle East

9:25-10:40

Guest Lecture: Lewis Brownstein

Readings:

1- Henri J. Barkey, The Effect of US Policy in the Middle East on EU-Turkey Relations *The International Spectator*, Vol. 43, No. 4, December 2008, 31–44

2- Graham E. Fuller, The Arab Revolution is Beyond America's Control, *New Perspectives Quarterly*. 28:2. 35-39. Spring 2011.

10:50- 12:05 Student to student on line discussion: spent with an on-line live discussion during class time after student partners read each other's work.

### **8) March 13**

Relations with the Middle East: Iraq

9:25-10:40 Guest Lecture by Nancy Kassop on Presidential War Powers (I need to confirm this)

Readings:

- 1) F. Stephen Larrabee, Chapter 3- *Iraq and Kurdish Challenge in Troubled Partnership: U.S.-Turkish Relations in an Era of Global Geopolitical Change*, Rand Corporation
- 2) Ömer Taşpınar. *The Anatomy of anti-Americanism in Turkey*, Brookings Institute.

10:50-11:30 Discussion

11:30-12:05 Groups work to put together their presentations for next class.

March 20 (NP: spring break)

### **9) March 27**

Relations with the Middle East: Iran and Israel

Readings:

*Middle East Policy*, Vol. XVII, No. 3, Fall 2010 (Articles from the special issue)

- 1) Hasan Kösebalaban, The Crisis in Turkish-Israeli Relations: What Is Its Strategic Significance?
- 2) Nihat Ali Özcan / Özgür Özdamar, Uneasy Neighbors: Turkish-Iranian Relations Since the 1979 Islamic Revolution
- 3) Hillary Mann Leverett, Martin Indyk, Ian Lustick, Paul Pillar, U.S. Policies Toward Israel and Iran: What are the Linkages?

Students are to write a 1-2 page reflection paper about their discussion with the Turkish/American partner regarding the foreign policy positions.

April 2 (NP: Friday classes meet Tuesday, no classes Friday)

**10) April 10**

Student presentations on Iran. Followed by discussion  
6 Groups-20 minutes presentation each followed by discussion

**11) April 17**

Discussion on Energy Policy beyond Iran.

Readings:

- 1) Mert Bilgin Turkey's energy strategy: What difference does it make to become an energy transit corridor, hub or center? *UNISCI Discussion Papers*, May 2010, No 23 pp 113-129.
- 2) Kamer Kasim, "US Policy on Caspian Oil and its Implications for Turkish American Relations" in Aydin and Erhan eds. *Turkish-American Relations* 2004.

**12) April 24**

Turkey, US and the EU

Readings:

- 1- Nugent, Neil, "The EU's Response to Turkey's Membership Application" *European Integration* Vol 29, NO. 4 481-502, Sept 2007.
- 2- Sayari, Sabri, "Challenges of Triangular Relations: The US, the EU, and Turkish Accession." *South European Society & Politics*; Jun2011, Vol. 16 Issue 2, p251-263.

**13) May 1**

Turkey, US, and Cyprus issue

Readings:

- 1- TBA
- 2- TBA

**14) May 8**

Final discussion

**15) Final Exam May 15 (9:25-11:25)**

## **Student Assignments (more information on the assignments will be provided):**

### **I. Paper Assignment: Domestic sources of foreign policy.**

- 1) Each student writes a 3-4 page essay in reaction to Obama's speech on the Middle East (Cairo Speech) and Erdogan's speech on Alliance of Civilizations. (due February 28 on Blackboard)

Between February 28 and March 6,

- a. each student will read the work of a partner student from the other class.
  - b. each student is expected to post two questions based on their reading of the partner on BB for discussion.
  - c. On March 6, part of class time will be dedicated to person-to-person discussion regarding these papers. The students are expected to give each other feedback about their thoughts on the papers from their own perspective as well as their own government's perspective (if it is not the same as the student's perspective). This discussion should incorporate specific questions that students pose for discussion based on reading each other's work.
- 2) Students are to write a 1-2 page reflection paper about their discussion with the Turkish/American partner regarding the foreign policy positions.

### **II. Black Board posting Assignment: Communiqué between classes**

Each week we will spend some time with the Turkish partner institution while we also spend some time without the presence of our partner class. In order to let the partners know what is going on in the rest of our discussion, each week one student will be in charge of summarizing the discussion in class (between 400-500 words) and making it available on BB for Turkish partners to read.

### **III. Assignment**

- 1) Groups of equal representation from Turkey and United States will be formed through self selection of a position based on the special issue of the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists.
- 2) Students will prepare a paper defending this position and refuting at least one of the other positions:

The Iranian quagmire: How to move forward:

Position 1: Confident diplomacy (Thomas R. Pickering)

Position 2: Containment and deterrence (Lawrence J. Korb)

Position 3: Resuscitate the nuclear swap deal (Mustafa Kibaroglu)

Position 4: Tit-for-tat diplomacy (Kayhan Barzegar)

Position 5: Tough bargaining tactics (Emily B. Landau)

Position 6: The military option (Bennett Ramberg)

- 3) Students will prepare a group presentation on their position followed by an in class discussion. The presentations should be jointly prepared by group members and the groups should post outline of presentations on BB before class.