

Course Profile - Department of International Relations

Course Number: IR 545	Course Title: Current Issues in Turkish Politics
Required / Elective: Elective	Pre / Co-requisites: -
Catalog Description: Political, constitutional and administrative systems in Turkey. Social cleavages and party politics in Turkey. Secular-religious and center-periphery cleavages. Civil-military relations in Turkey. The political culture of Turkish society. Voting behavior in Turkey.	Textbook / Required Material: Ersin Kalaycıoğlu. 2005. <i>Turkish Dynamics: Bridge across Troubled Lands</i> . New York: Palgrave Macmillan. Arda Can Kumbaracıbaşı. 2009. <i>Turkish Politics and the Rise of AKP: Dilemmas of Institutionalization and Leadership Strategy</i> . New York: Routledge. Jacob M. Landau. 1974. <i>Radical Politics in Modern Turkey</i> . Jerusalem Academic Press. Yeşim Arat. 2005. <i>Rethinking Islam and Liberal Democracy: Islamist Women in Turkish Politics</i> . Albany: State University of New York Press. Ali Çarkoğlu and Ersin Kalaycıoğlu. 2009. <i>The Rising Tide of Conservatism in Turkey</i> . Palgrave Macmillan.
Course Structure / Schedule: (3+0+0) 3 / 7 ECTS	
Extended Description: This course is a seminar on the politics and political culture of Turkey with an emphasis on the most recent issues of high salience. Understanding current issues and today's Turkey requires a deeper insight into the past, therefore the course does not entirely ignore the historical context. The writing assignments and presentations will deal with the most salient issues in political discussions in Turkey; including the rise of Conservatism, Turkey-EU relations, Arab Spring and its effects on Turkey's foreign policy, changing civil-military relations in Turkey, secularism and state-religion relations as well as the Kurdish problem, the ongoing peace process and the prospects for a new civilian constitution.	
Design content: None	Computer usage: Required
<p>Course Outcomes:</p> <p>By the end of this course, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a broad understanding of Turkey's domestic politics. • Understand why and how some issues have become salient in Turkey's political culture and its domestic politics. • Analyze current issues of Turkey in light of the grand theoretical approaches to Turkish politics. • Think, write, and speak clearly and cogently about Turkish politics. 	
Teaching methods: Lectures, class discussions, video clips, slides	

Course Outline

Week	Topics
1	Introduction
2	Historical Overview: Kemalism, Islamism, Westernism and Ottomanism
3	Historical Overview: 1960 and 1980 Military Interventions
4	Conservative Democracy: AKP Years
5	Issues in Turkey-EU Relations
6	Issues in Turkey-US Relations
7	Opposition Parties and the Left in Turkey
8	The Kurdish Issue and the Peace Process I
9	The Kurdish Issue and the Peace Process II
10	Voting Behavior in Turkey during the 1990s and 2000s
11	Elections and Campaigns in Turkey
12	Arab Spring and Turkey's Middle East Foreign Policy I
13	Arab Spring and Turkey's Middle East Foreign Policy II
14	Democratization and Future Prospects of Civilian Democracy in Turkey
15	Conclusion

Assessment methods:

Discussion and participation: 40%

Writing assignments: 60%

Contribution of Course Learning Outcomes to Program Outcomes

	Program Outcomes	*Level of Contribution				
		1	2	3	4	5
MIR1	Possess in-depth knowledge about the fundamental concepts and theories of the discipline of International Relations					
MIR2	Be aware of the theoretical approaches related to the issues of the system, nation-state, institutions, culture, and power in world politics				X	
MIR3	Follow closely the contemporary world conjuncture			X		
MIR4	Be able to question the well-established knowledge and causal relationships in the field of International Relations					
MIR5	Be aware of the shortcomings and gaps in the International Relations literature and be able to carry out research that addresses these gaps and shortcomings					
MIR6	Comprehend various scientific research methods and be able to use these methods effectively				X	

MIR7	Be able to produce an original, scientific study in the field of International Relations					
MIR8	Be able to think independently, creatively, and critically					X
MIR9	Embrace work ethics and behave accordingly					X
MIR10	Be open-minded towards new phenomena that emerge in world politics and the politics of states				X	
MIR11	Have self confidence and acquire the ability to deliver presentations in public					X
MIR12	Be able to work together with individuals from different cultures, beliefs, and opinions					

*1 Lowest, 2 Low, 3 Average, 4 High, 5 Highest

Student workload:

Reading	75 hrs
Lectures	15 hrs
Class discussion	35 hrs
Written assignments	50 hrs

TOTAL 175 hrs (25x7) 7 ECTS

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Revision Date : 30.10.2013