

Pols 504 – Turkey and Its Neighborhood
Boğaziçi University, Spring 2021

Online course Wednesdays 18:30-21:00

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This is a required course in the MIR (Master of Arts Program in International Relations: Turkey, Europe, and the Middle East) program. The first part of the course mostly centers on Turkey's connections with and its foreign policy towards its neighborhood. The second part centers on the politics of the Middle East, due to student demand received in earlier iterations of this course, who complained that Europe was overrepresented elsewhere in the program.

Logistics:

This course will be conducted through distance-learning methods due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We will never meet physically. We will be meeting once a week via Zoom on Wednesdays at 18:30. This will be both where I deliver a lecture and we have our a discussion. It will be better if you arrive at these meetings having completed all the readings for the week.

Grading requirements

40% Midterm Exam (Week 7, online take-home)

For the exam, I will give you questions on May 7 Friday night, and probably about 36 hours to answer them as a Turnitin assignment on Moodle. The questions will cover the readings of the first 6 weeks, assessing the student's command of Turkey's international relations.

60% Final Paper (deadline July 1)

In lieu of a final exam, you'll write a research paper. Below are some regionally important countries, whose reaction to the Arab Spring has been important in shaping the developments thereafter. For your paper, pick one of the countries, then narrate and analyze how this country responded to the Arab Spring. Do not just summarize facts. Provide an analysis of why the country behaved the way it did, and what were the consequences for the country itself or the region, preferably utilizing some of the concepts we earlier covered in the International Relations Theory course (IR502). I expect a paper of about 3000-4000 words, not counting the bibliography section. As for sources, those in the syllabus are a good place to start, but you can go beyond. To avoid plagiarism while writing the paper, please consult the guide at the end of this syllabus.

Here are the country options:

Turkey, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Israel, Russia

Below is the scale used to convert scores to course grades.¹

Score	Course grade	GPA
90-100	AA	4
85-89	BA	3.5
80-84	BB	3
75-79	CB	2.5
70-74	CC	2
64-69	DC	1.5
60-64	DD	1
0-60	F	0

Academic integrity

Cheating and plagiarism during the assignments and the exams will not be tolerated. The Department of Political Science and International Relations at Bogazici University has the following rules and regulations regarding academic honesty:

- Copying work from others or giving and receiving answers/information during exams either in written or oral form constitutes cheating.
- Submitting take-home exams and papers of others as your own, using sentences or paragraphs from another author without the proper acknowledgement of the original author, insufficient acknowledgement of the consulted works in the bibliography, all constitute plagiarism. A plagiarism guide is available at the end of the syllabus.
- Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and will result in:
 - an automatic F for the assignment or the exam
 - an oral explanation before the Departmental Ethics Committee
 - losing the opportunity to request and receive any references from the entire faculty
 - losing the opportunity to apply in exchange programs
 - losing the prospects of becoming a student assistant or a graduate assistant in the department
 - The students may further be sent to the University Ethics committee or be subject to disciplinary action.

¹ This is a note to myself and you can ignore it. The formula to use on Excel to automatically assign letter grades =IF(M2<60,"F",IF(M2<65,"DD",IF(M2<70,"DC",IF(M2<75,"CC",IF(M2<80,"CB",IF(M2<85,"BB",IF(M2<90,"BA",IF(M2<95,"A",IF(M2<100,"AA")))))))))))

Course Schedule and Reading List

All readings are available online through Moodle.

Week 1 (Mar 22-24): Conceptual and Historical Background

- Lockman, Zachary. 2009. *Contending Visions of the Middle East*, second edition. Cambridge University Press. Chapter 3: Orientalism and Empire.
- Hinnebusch, R. 2020. "Historical context of state formation in the Middle East: structure and agency" in Hinnebusch and Gani (eds.) *The Routledge Handbook to the Middle East and North African State and States System*, London and New York: Routledge. Pp. 21-39

Week 2 (Mar 29-31): Turkey's International Orientation

- Hale, William, *Turkish Foreign Policy since 1774*. London: Frank Cass, Third Edition, 2013. Chapter 2: "1918-39," 31-55
- Aydın, Mustafa. 2000. "Determinants of Turkish Foreign Policy: Changing Patterns and Conjunctures during the Cold War," *Middle Eastern Studies*, 36, 1, 103-139

Week 3 (Apr 5-7): Turkey's disputes in the Aegean and the Mediterranean

- "Oran, Baskin ed., *Turkish Foreign Policy 1919-2006: Facts and Analyses with Documents*. Salt Lake City, The University of Utah Press: 2010. pp. 432-463: Relations with Greece"
- Heraclides, Alexis. "The unresolved Aegean dispute: problems and prospects" in *Greece and Turkey in Conflict and Cooperation*, Edited by Alexis Heraclides, Gizem Alioğlu Çakmak, Routledge, 2019.
- Dalay, Galip. 2021. Turkey, Europe, and the Eastern Mediterranean: Charting a Way Out of the Current Deadlock. Brookings Policy Briefing. January.

Week 4 (Apr 12-14): Turkey and the West

- Hale, William, *Turkish Foreign Policy since 1774*. London: Frank Cass, Third Edition, 2013. Chapter 8: "Turkey and the European Union," 174-193.
- Saatçioğlu, Beken (2019): "The European Union's refugee crisis and rising functionalism in EU-Turkey relations, *Turkish Studies*
- Flanagan, Stephen J. and Peter A. Wilson. "Implications for the U.S.-Turkish Partnership and the U.S. Army" in Turkey's Nationalist Course, RAND Corporation, 2020. Read from p. 191 "Thorny Bilateral Issues"

Week 5 (Apr 19-21): Russia

- Chindea, Irina. 2020. "Western Partners on the Black Sea's Northwestern Shore: Ukraine and Moldova" in Russia, NATO, and Black Sea Security. RAND Corporation.
- Binnendijk, Anika. "The Russian-Turkish Bilateral Relationship: Managing Differences in an Uneasy Partnership" in Turkey's Nationalist Course, RAND Corporation, 2020.
- CRS. 2021. Azerbaijan and Armenia: The Nagorno- Karabakh Conflict, US Congressional Research Service Report, January 2021

Week 6 (Apr 26-28): Iran

- Nader, Alireza. "Turkey's Relations with Iran and Iraq: Enduring Rivals or a New Modus Vivendi?" in Turkey's Nationalist Course, RAND Corporation, 2020.
- Sabet, F. and R. Safshekan. 2019. "The Revolutionary Guard in Iranian Domestic and Foreign Power Politics" in Shahram Akbarzadeh (ed.) *Routledge Handbook of International Relations in the Middle East*, Routledge. 96-109.
- Tabatabai, A. 2020. Escalation with Iran: Outcomes and Implications for U.S. Interests and Regional Stability. RAND Corporation

Week 7 (May 3-5): NO CLASS: Online take-home midterm exam

Week 8 (May 10-12) NO CLASS: Spring Break

Week 9 (May 17-19): Political Economy of the Middle East

- Cammett, M., Diwan, I., Richards, A. and Waterbury, J. 2013. *A Political Economy of the Middle East*. Taylor and Francis. Chapter 2: Economic Performance and Social Outcomes. Pp. 35-72.
- Luciani, Giacomo. 2016. "Oil and Political Economy" in Louise Fawcett (ed.), *International Relations of the Middle East*, 4th Edition, Oxford University Press. Pp. 105-130

Week 10 (May 24-26): Security Environment of the Middle East

- Ian Lustick, 1997. "The Absence of Middle Eastern Great Powers: Political 'Backwardness' in Historical Perspective," *International Organization*, 27 pgs.
- Beinen, Joel and Lisa Hajjar, 2014. Primer on Palestine, Israel and the Arab-Israeli Conflict (Middle East Research and Information Project, 2014), 16 pgs.
- Legrenzi, M. and Gause III, G. 2017. "The International Politics of The Gulf" in Louise Fawcett (ed.), *International Relations of the Middle East*, 4th Edition, Oxford University Press. Pp. 305-324.

Week 11 (May 31-June 2): The Arab Spring

- Brownlee, J. Masoud, T. E. and Reynolds, A. 2014. *The Arab Spring: Pathways of Repression and Reform*, New York: Oxford University Press, chapters 2 and 3, pp. 40-97.
- Bellin, E. (2018). The puzzle of democratic divergence in the Arab world: theory confronts experience in Egypt and Tunisia. *Political Science Quarterly*, 133(3), 435-475.

Week 12 (Jun 7-9): The Arab Wars

- Lynch, Marc. 2016. *The New Arab Wars*. Public Affairs. chapters 1, 4, 7.

Week 13 (Jun 14-16): Sectarianization and Fundamentalism

- Cammett, M., Diwan, I., Richards, A. and Waterbury, J. 2013. *A Political Economy of the Middle East*. Taylor and Francis. Chapter 12: Is Islam the Solution? Pp. 437-74.
- Salloukh, Bassel. 2017. "The Sectarianization of Geopolitics in the Middle East." In Nader Hashemi and Danny Postel, eds., *Sectarianization: Mapping the New Politics of the Middle East*. Oxford University Press. Pp. 35-52
- Martin Chulov, "ISIS: The inside Story," *The Guardian*, November 12, 2014.

How to Avoid Plagiarism While Writing Papers

Plagiarism (*intihal* in Turkish) is the representation of the words, ideas or findings of another as one's own work in any academic exercise. It is morally wrong and will lead to heavy penalties if discovered. So you should cite your sources.

You do not have to cite a source about things that are considered as general wisdom, like the fact that the Second World War started in 1939. Sometimes it is not easy to decide what is general wisdom. The general rule: IF IN DOUBT, CITE YOUR SOURCE. If you are going to report a piece of information that you were not familiar with until reading it in a specific source, you should cite the source. If you are reporting some other writer's argument, you should cite.

Cite but how—quoting or paraphrasing? Most of your paper should be in your own words, even while reporting other people's opinions/findings. So prefer paraphrasing over direct quotations. Paraphrasing is rephrasing other people's texts in your own words. Successful paraphrasing demonstrates that you grasp the essence of the argument and it saves space. If you fail to properly cite paraphrasing material from another source, that too is plagiarism.

The passage below provides a good-practice example without plagiarism. In this example, Yagci and Balci are paraphrased while Nalci is quoted directly.

Some scholars have observed that pistachios are delicious (Yagci 2004). Others have responded by noting that hazelnuts are even more delicious (Balci 2008). Nalci questions this research agenda by asking, "What does delicious mean, anyways?" (2009: 47).

Then at the end of the text you provide a list of references including the full bibliographic info, as in:

Yagci, A. 2004. "Those Awesome Pistachios", *Journal of Nuts Research* 46(3): 46-72.

Balci, M.L. 2008. "What Everybody Got Wrong About Nuts," *WestMass* online magazine, 23 September, [URL-address-goes-here](#), accessed 29 September 2013.

Nalci, M. 2009. *The Nuts and Bolts of Nuts*. (New York: College Press).

If your source is a website, don't forget to provide the full URL address.

What about format? There are different conventions for formal citation. So long as you stick to one consistently throughout an assignment, any one would be acceptable. I would recommend the "name and date" convention established by the American Psychological Association (APA) used in the example above.

What sources are acceptable? Wikipedia is an acceptable source but be aware that not all its articles are of the same quality and validity. If you are referring to Wikipedia, note the particular article title together with the full URL address.