

Turkish American Relations

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Co-taught by

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Course Description

- Study of Turkish American political relations and foreign policy
- Run simultaneously with the partner institution class from Sehir University in Istanbul
- Students collaborate with peers from Turkey on several projects.
- Turkish American Relations explored based on different interests: security, domestic sources of foreign policy, economy, energy, etc. in the context of Turkey's neighbors
 - Soviet Union/Russia
 - Cyprus
 - Iraq and the Kurds
 - Syria
 - Iran
 - Israel
 - EU
 - Central Asia/Caucuses

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 write argument driven papers and response papers about a specific foreign policy question.

Course Objectives

Students are expected to gain from COIL experience:

- To develop skills of cross cultural communication. The ability to communicate with people who may have a different perspective on issues is an essential part of diplomacy. As students of political science and international relations, disagreeing without offending and also finding common grounds of understanding on issues through compromise is an important skill to develop.
- to develop debate and discussion skills.

Course Outline

Week 1-4

Introduction to Turkish politics and history

Turkish foreign policy and international relations

Post Cold War and Contemporary issues in Turkish politics
(Traditional in class Midterm)

MODULE 1: Week 5-6

Introductions

Turkish American Relations (one guest lecture)

American foreign policy and relations with Turkey
(Assignment 1)

Course Outline

MODULE 2: Week 7-10

Relations with the Middle East (Two guest lectures)

(Assignment 2)

MODULE 3: Week 11-14

Energy Policy, the EU, Cyprus issue

(Take home final)

Introductions

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

Module 1: Assignment 1

- Each student writes a 3-4 page essay in reaction to President Obama's Cairo speech and PM Erdoğan's speech to the UN General Assembly
 - each student will read the work of a partner student from the other class.
 - each student is expected to post two questions based on their reading of the partner on BB for discussion.
 - 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.
- Students are to write a 1-2 page reflection paper about their discussion with the Turkish/American partner regarding the foreign policy positions. (What did you learn from your discussion?)

Assignment 1: Essay

Read or listen to the speeches uploaded to BB:

- identifying the main message of the speech
- pay attention to the examples given by PM Erdogan and President Obama

Direction that the paper can take:

- Compare the messages from the speeches to the actions of government in real life?
- Identify parallels between the speech and foreign policy agenda carried out by the governments of these leaders?
- Write about the implications of these speeches for the relations between the two countries.

Module 2: Assignment 2

Groups of equal representation from Turkey and United States will be formed through *self selection of a position*;

Six foreign policy positions toward Iran are based on six articles in the special issue of the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists;

Students will prepare a paper defending this position and refuting at least one of the other positions;

Students will prepare a joint group presentation defending their position followed by an in class discussion.