

PSCI 4920 / 8926
Politics, Society and Economics in Turkey
Summer 2015

Professor Ramazan Kilinc
Department of Political Science
University of Nebraska- Omaha

Office Hours: Daily 7-8 pm
Office: Traveling
Email: rkilinc@unomaha.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

What does Turkey remind you? A Middle Eastern country? A European one? Ephesus? Dardanelles? Istanbul? Ottoman sultans? Or all? Have you heard any discussion about Turkey that puts it as a model of democracy to the Arab world in the wake of the Arab uprisings? Or have you heard increasing authoritarianism in Turkey under the leadership of Recep Tayyip Erdoğan? What about increasing political and economic presence of Turkey in the Middle East and the world?

Turkey, located at the intersection of Europe and Asia is one of the biggest countries in the Middle East. It has a population of more than 75 million, with many different religious and ethnic groups. It is a secular state, with a unique social and political environment, shaped by its history as the multi-religious and multi-ethnic Ottoman Empire.

That it is geographically located between Europe and Asia created a unique culture that includes elements from both West and East. According to the World Bank, it is one of the twenty most promising economies in the twenty first century. With about 200 universities, Turkey's educational system has become one of the most highly prized in the Middle East.

The increasing Turkish political and economic activism in the recent years has put Turkey at the spotlight. With all these characteristics, Turkey offers a great social and political laboratory for us to learn about politics, society, culture and economics.

This course will take you to this laboratory to explore critical issues in Turkey after you take 6 weeks of readings and online discussions in Nebraska.

Learning Outcomes:

- Become familiar with significant aspects of contemporary Turkish society, politics and the economy, and be able to appreciate and compare the range of contemporary experiences related to these areas to other communities in the Middle East.
- Understand the historical emergence and development of the Turkish state in the Middle East and Asia/Europe, as well as crucial factors relevant to Turkey's position geopolitically between Europe and Asia.
- Critically analyze the socio-economic and political challenges faced within Turkey and understand the complex inter-connections of Turkish politics, the economy and culture by engaging in direct observation and interaction in the host country.
- Compare American society, cultural values, and perceptions with those of Turkish society, and develop an awareness of different cultural frames of reference in order to interpret events from more than one cultural lens.
- Create a bridge between Nebraska students and contemporary Turkish academics, politicians, and community members, through the mutual exchange of ideas.

Course Structure

The course will consist of two parts:

1) Online Instruction (March 30 -May 8):

In the first part of the course, you will read Andrew Finkel's *Turkey: What Everyone Needs to Know* book to provide you with the basic knowledge base about Turkey. All the students should buy the book. It is a very inexpensive book and a kindle edition of the book is also available.

I divided this really short book over six weeks so my expectations will be really low. You will read one short chapter from the book every week. I may also add a few newspaper or magazine stories to that. Then you will discuss the readings in discussion post. The Finkel reading is very entertaining so your readings will actually be a great break for you when you're tired with other assignments/exams. Finkel is a journalist who has been living in Turkey in the last two decades or so. He writes very accessible and engaging. I require you to submit one discussion posts on Blackboard every week (a total of 6 posts).

2) Erzurum and Istanbul, Turkey (May 20-June 7):

You will spend the second part of the course in Erzurum and Istanbul. We depart from Omaha on May 20 and arrive at Erzurum on May 22 (You will stay in Istanbul on the first night). Erzurum is historically rich and naturally beautiful. We will stay in the guesthouse at Ataturk University. In Erzurum, we will take Turkish classes every morning to give you a sense of the language. We hope that you will learn some everyday phrases during that time. In the mornings, you will also have lectures on Turkish society and economics while you will have site visits in the afternoons. Additionally, you will have two daily trips to Trabzon and Agri. On those days, there will be no lectures. We will also have discussions with Turkish students during our stay in Erzurum.

Between May 31 and June 7, we will spend our time in Istanbul. Koc University will host us in Istanbul in its downtown campus. The Istanbul lectures will mostly be on history, politics and economics in Turkey. As in Erzurum, we will have lectures in the mornings and site visits in the afternoons.

Faculty and Staff

Ramazan Kılınç, an Assistant Professor of Political Science and Director of Islamic Studies Program at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, received his Ph.D. from Arizona State University in 2008. He got his MA and BA degrees from Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey. He teaches courses on the Middle East and Islamic politics. His recent work appeared in *Comparative Politics*, and *Political Science Quarterly*. He is the recipient of the 2012 Weber Paper Award and co-recipient of the 2013 Sage Paper Award of the American Political Science Association. He is currently working on a book manuscript entitled *Alien Citizens: Muslims in France and Christians in Turkey*.

Sara Sanchez is a staff member with the Office of Academic Success and Intercultural Services (OASIS) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Among other responsibilities, Sara will serve as an additional resource and source of support for our group. Sara has led students on domestic service trips and conference experiences and has personally traveled

internationally on multiple occasions. Sara is looking forward to sharing this experience with the student participants and for all that is to be learned. Sara can be reached at ssanchez4@unl.edu or (402) 472-7725 and on the UNL campus she is located in office #141 of the Gaughan Multicultural Center.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Required Readings:

Andrew Finkel. 2012. *Turkey: What Everyone Needs to Know*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Buy ONE of the following travel guides:

DK Eyewitness Travel Guide: Turkey

Lone Planet Turkey

Fodor's Turkey

There will be additional short materials including journal articles, newspaper and magazine articles and links to short videos for the lectures on the site. These readings are recommended for the students who want to get a deeper understanding on the topics that we will cover throughout the trip. All materials will be available through Blackboard.

I also advise the students to follow me on Twitter (@KilincRamazan) since I share many relevant readings about Turkish politics.

Grading

Your final grade will be based on the following criteria.

1. Introductory Power Point (5 %)

This course has two parts: online discussions and a trip. The course requires engaged discussions as it aims to make you understand Turkish politics, economy and society and make you experience the Turkish culture at first hand. For this reason, we will have discussions throughout the course period. To make the discussions more engaging, it is important to know more about the discussants. For this reason, I require all of the students to prepare a short PowerPoint presentation that introduces them. This 5-6 slide presentation should include a photo of yourself, your aim in taking the course and important information that you want to share about yourself with your fellow travelers. The kind of information that you share is up to you but it may include your major, nationality, hobbies, etc. Introductory Power Point is due on **April 3** and it will worth 5 percent of your final grade.

2. Discussion Posts (5 % each, 30 % total)

You will take the advantage of the trip the most if you familiarize yourself about Turkey before we arrive at the country. For this reason, we will have a six weeks of online course between March 31 and May 1. In these six weeks, students are expected to read Finkel book and submit 6 discussion posts on Blackboard. The discussion will take place on the course web site's discussion forum. Every Monday, the instructor will post a discussion question based on the course readings. Your response to each discussion question will be around 250-300 words. Your response can challenge an argument, raise a counter-argument, support an existing argument with further data, or respond to your friends' responses (if there are any other responses when you're submitting yours). To facilitate your class participation, I encourage you to think critically, and as part of that, to think the positive aspects of the

lectures and readings, and to develop your own analysis of the subject. Discussion posts will be due on **Wednesdays (April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, May 6)** at 11:59 p.m. The discussion posts will worth 30 percent of your final grade.

3. Daily Reflections Journal (20 %)

During your time in Turkey, you're required to write daily reflective journal to maximize your learning from the trip. The daily reflective thoughts can be snapshots about your feelings, thoughts, doubts, critical questions about issues and people. It is NOT a work log of tasks and events. It is more on what the tasks and events that we undertake influence your thinking and feelings. Comparisons of Turkish culture with the American culture in your reflections would be great. Write your journal freely and daily. Grammar/spelling should not be stressed in your writing until the final draft. Write an entry after each day. If you can't write a full entry, jot down random thoughts, images, etc. which you can come back to a day or two later and expand into a verbal language. There is no length requirement but take every effort not to write more than 500 words per day. After the end of the trip, you will submit the daily reflections journal on Blackboard. The final journal is due on **Monday, June 15**.

4. Daily Pictures (10 %)

I am sure you all will bring your camera and take pictures of your trip. This is great. Why not getting credit by sharing some of those pictures with me? I will require you to submit a picture for each day during the trip. The picture that you choose should summarize your reflection from the trip for the specific day. This means that you will submit about a total of 20 pictures during the trip. I will ask you to insert those pictures into your reflections journal. We will use some of these pictures for our promotional events in the future. We will of course give credit to you for the pictures that you take. These pictures and reflections journal will help me improve the course for future students as I will know your thoughts about the trip deeply. Make sure date the pictures correctly and having only one picture for each day of the trip. You will submit these pictures with your daily reflections journal on Blackboard after the end of the trip. It may be a good idea to put the pictures before or after of your reflections of the day when the picture is taken. It is due on **Monday, June 15**.

5. Final Reflection Essay (20 %)

By the end of the trip, you're required to write an essay that summarizes your reflections from the trip. In this essay, you will write what you learned from taking this course, including facts/information about our text as well as your own experiences from the trip. In the essay, also explain how you will use the knowledge that you got from the course and what will be the future initiatives that you will build on this course and trip. You can use your reflections journal as an input for this essay. The essay should be 4-5 page long (double-spaced). You will submit the essay on Blackboard by **Friday, June 19**.

6. Group Report (15 %)

In the end of the trip, the students attending to the trip will be required to write a trip report. The report will be a short summary of trip and include both daily activities and students' reflections of the trip and course as a whole. The report will be used for promotional purposes in advertising the program for the future students. The report will include the following: (1) Brief descriptions of daily activities with pictures; (2) students' reflections of the program; and (3) summaries of student learning outcomes. Students can use their creativity in producing this final report. Students will consider that the report will be used to

promote the program and write the report based on this consideration. You can include the things that other students might find interesting. All students will get the same grade from this report. The report is due on **Friday, June 26** and will be submitted on Blackboard.

A Summary of Grading Requirements

Course Requirement	Percentage	Due Date
Introductory Power Point	5 %	4/3
6 Discussion Posts	30 %	4/1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 5/6
Daily Reflections Journal	20 %	6/15
Daily Pictures	10 %	6/15
Final Reflection Essay	20 %	6/19
Final Group Report	15 %	6/26
TOTAL	100 %	

The entire course is worth 100 points:

A+	98-100 points	C	72-76 points
A	93-97 points	C-	69-71 points
A-	90-92 points	D+	66-68 points
B+	87-89 points	D	63-65 points
B	83-86 points	D-	60-62 points
B-	80-82 points	F	0-59 points
C+	77-79 points		

COURSE SCHEDULE AND READINGS

PART I: ONLINE INSTRUCTION

Week of March 30: Introduction

Reading Assignment: Finkel, pp. 1-19
 Additional Reading: Newspaper or Magazine Article
 Discussion Post 1 due on Wednesday, April 1

Week of April 6: Historical Background

Reading Assignment: Finkel, pp. 20-42
 Additional Reading: Newspaper or Magazine Article
 Discussion Post 2 due on Wednesday, April 8

Week of April 13: Economy

Reading Assignment: Finkel, pp. 43-66
 Additional Reading: Newspaper or Magazine Article
 Discussion Post 3 due on Wednesday, April 15

Week of April 20: Turkey in the World

Reading Assignment: Finkel, pp. 67-105
 Additional Reading: Newspaper or Magazine Article
 Discussion Post 4 due on Wednesday, April 22

Week of April 27: Politics

Reading Assignment: Finkel, pp. 106-137

Additional Reading: Newspaper or Magazine Article
Discussion Post 5 due on Wednesday, April 29

Week of May 4: Society and Religion

Reading Assignment: Finkel, pp. 138-190
Additional Reading: Newspaper or Magazine Article
Discussion Post 6 due on Wednesday, May 6

PART II: TURKEY TRIP (TENTATIVE)

The schedule in this part of the course is tentative. We have a structure to have a productive program but at the same time, we have flexibility to take advantage of any emerging opportunities to gain more experience or to learn more about Turkey. Supplementary readings for the lectures and site visits below will be available on Blackboard.

A. ERZURUM, MAY 22-31

Friday, May 22

Morning:

Arrival at Erzurum (Arrival 9:05 a.m., Turkish Airlines)
Checking in and Unpacking

Afternoon:

Visit to Office of International Affairs and President's Office
Presentation on Turkey, Region, Ataturk University and the Office of International Affairs (Prof. Fahri Yavuz, Office of International Affairs)
Campus Tour
Reflection Hour: Comparative Perspectives

Saturday, May 23

Morning:

9:00-10:15 Lecture: Turkey in Global and Historical Context (Ramazan Kilinc)
10:30-12:30: Turkish

Afternoon:

City tour: visit some important historical and scenery places
Reflection Hour: Comparative Perspectives

Evening Activity: Bowling

Sunday, May 24

Tour: Visit Tortum Waterfall and have lunch (fish) at seven lakes
Visit Narman Chimneys and return back to Erzurum

Monday, May 25

Morning:

9:00-10:15: Lecture: Turkish Educational System (Prof. Mustafa Sozibilir, College of Education)
10:30-12:30 Turkish

Afternoon:

Visit to Bilkent High School & Erzurum Ibrahim Hakki Science High School
Reflection Hour: Comparative Perspectives

Evening Activity: Hale and Serhan Dogan

Tuesday, May 26

Morning:

9:00-10:15 Lecture: Turkish Political System and Political Parties (Ramazan Kilinc)

10:30-12:30: Turkish

Afternoon:

Visit to Provincial Offices of Turkish Political Parties (AK Party, MHP, CHP, HDP)

Reflection Hour: Comparative Perspectives

Evening Activity: Cemil Dogac Ipek

Wednesday, May 27

Tour to Trabzon: Breakfast in Gumushane and visit Sumela Monastery

Lunch in Akcabat, visit historical places in Trabzon

Thursday, May 28

Morning:

9:00-10:15: Lecture: Health Care System in Turkey (Prof. Zekeriya Akturk, College of Pharmacy)

10:30-12:30 Turkish

Afternoon:

Local Family Visit, Historical and Touristic Sites in Erzurum

Reflection Hour: Comparative Perspectives

Evening Activity: Elif Colakoglu

Friday, May 29

Morning:

9:00-10:15 Lecture: Turkish Economy: Strengths and Weaknesses (Prof. Erol Çakmak, College of Economics and Business Management)

10:30-12:30: Turkish

Afternoon:

Turkish Traditional Art and Ebru (Marbling) Demonstration and Training

Reflection Hour: Comparative Perspectives

Evening Activity: Islamic Art Movie Screening

Saturday, May 30

Morning:

9:00-10:15: Lecture: Islam, Secularism and Democracy in Turkey (Ramazan Kilinc)

10:30-12:30: Turkish

Afternoon:

Visit shopping centers and gift shops in downtown

Reflection Hour: Comparative Perspectives

Sunday, May 31

Travel to Istanbul (Departure 10:25 am, Turkish Airlines).

B. ISTANBUL ITINERARY (May 31-June 7)

Sunday, May 31

Arrival at Istanbul (Arrival at 12:30 pm, Turkish Airlines)
Newspaper Visit and Lecture on Media and Politics in Turkey (Kerim Balci, Today's Zaman Columnist)
Checking in and Unpacking at Koc University
Neighborhood Tour – Istinye Bay and Emirgan Park

Monday, June 1

9:00-10:00: Lecture: Archeology and Art History of Istanbul ((Aslı Niyazioğlu, Department of History at Koc University)
10:15 Depart from Koc University for Beyazit Area
Visit: Tour of Topkapi Palace, Blue Mosque and Gulhane Park
Reflection Hour: Comparative Perspectives

Tuesday, June 2

9:00-10:00: Lecture: Turkish Citizenship Regime and the Kurdish Question (Şener Aktürk, Department of International Relations at Koc University)
10:30-11:30: Lecture: From Ottoman Empire to Modern Turkey: Changing Status of Minorities (Nazan Maksudyan, Istanbul Kemerburgaz University)
11:45 Depart from Koc University for Suleymaniye Area
Visit: Old City (Beyazit Square, Grand Bazaar and Suleymaniye)
Reflection Hour: Comparative Perspectives

Wednesday, June 3

9:00-10:00: Lecture: Political Economy of Turkey (Ziya Öniş, Department of International Relations at Koc University)
10:15 Depart from Koc University for Levent Area
Visit to Yapi Kredi Bank
Meeting with Global Relations Forum
Tour of Beyoglu/Taksim (no tour if there are demonstrations)

Thursday, June 4

10:00-11:00: Lecture: Ottoman Legacy in Turkish Politics (Yonca Köksal, Department of History at Koc University)
11:15 Depart from Koc University for Sultanahmet Area
Visit: Tour of Hagia Sophia, Basilica Cistern and Byzantine Hippodrome
Reflection Hour: Comparative Perspectives

Friday, June 5

9:00 Depart from Koc University to Karakoy
Visit to Jewish Museum of Turkey
Visit to Greek Orthodox Patriarchate
Visit Eminonu and Bosphorus Tour
Reflection Hour: Comparative Perspectives

Saturday, June 6

9:00 Depart from Koc University for Camlica
Visit to Lotus Women Entrepreneurs Association
Visit to Dolmabahce Palace
Visit Ortakoy Area
Reflection Hour: Comparative Perspectives

Sunday, June 7

Departure from Koc University at 2:30 am.
Departure from Istanbul Airport at 5:50 am.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Packing: Since we will have domestic flights in Turkey, don't over pack. You will have to pay baggage fees for more than one checked in bag (up to 50 pounds) in Turkey. Since you pay the baggage fees in a different location than the check in counter, it is a big hassle to have extra bag in Turkey. Please plan accordingly.

Internet Access/Phone Calls: We will hopefully have opportunities to have internet both in Erzurum and Istanbul. You may bring your laptop or iPad or something similar. Please install Skype or something like that to speak with your parents. This is the best way to talk to your parents. You don't need a phone during the trip. International calls are really expensive in Turkey. But if you have smart phones, you can use various applications to call your parents whenever we have internet access. For this reason, you may take your smartphones with you. I will carry a phone during the trip. Your parents can call me if they need to access you in emergencies. So, you will be accessible anytime anywhere. I also plan to send a few updates to your parents during the trip. Don't forget to let me know your emergency contact numbers.

Passport and Other Important Documents: Keep your passport and other documents in a safe place. Don't forget to take a copy of your important documents. In case you lose your documents, having a copy of it can make it easy to get a new passport from American Consulate. Also remember that you will get a visa to enter to the Turkey. You can get the visa online.

Credit Cards/Cash: Credit cards are widely accepted in Turkey but contact your bank before you depart and let them know about the trip. Also keep some cash with you as you may need them in some stores, especially in Erzurum. The cheapest way to exchange your money is withdrawing your money from an ATM machine in Turkey. Even after you include the banking fees, it is still the most economic way to exchange your money.

Medicine: Don't forget to bring any medicine that you take regularly. It is also a good idea to get some Tylenol or another pain reliever.