



POLS 207 Turkish Politics

Fall 2016

I. Course Description:

The central objective of this course is to make students familiar with the major political developments, issues and debates in contemporary Turkish politics. The course will examine Turkish political history from the *Tanzimat* era to contemporary events. At the same time the students will learn to observe, understand and analyse political events in Turkey.

II. Basic Course Information

Professor: Michelangelo Guida
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Office Hours: MON 16-17; THU 15-17

III. Course Text

The main readings are:

Erik J. Zürcher, *Turkey: a modern History* (IB. Tauris: London-New York, 1997).

Feroz Ahmad, *The Making of Modern Turkey* (Routledge: London-New York, 1993).

Moreover, students will be provided with a photocopy pack available at the photocopy facilities in the Ümraniye campus.

IV. Evaluations

Participation: it is an essential activity based on the underlying principle that students learn from one another. You are required to participate in the discussions by answering to questions, participate in debates or pose questions to the lecturer and the class. Those who attend less than 70% of the classes, **cannot take final and make-up exams**. In case of illness or difficulties please contact me.

Papers: you are required to write two papers of 4000 words each answering to one of the following questions. The deadlines must be respected; **no assignment will be accepted after the deadline**.

➤ Paper 1 (14 November 2016):

1. How would you assess the period of Abdülhamit II as a period of decadence or splendour?
2. What is the impact of Ziya Gökalp's ideas on the evolution of nationalism in Turkey?
3. Could you define Turkish Nationalism as a "civic nationalism"?
4. What are the main successes and failures of the One-party regime?
5. Why the One-party regime ended?

➤ Paper 2 (30 December 2016):

1. Is the centre-periphery divide still a key to understand Turkish politics?
2. What is the most important legacy of Turgut Özal?
3. Does the AK Parti era represent a dramatic change in Turkish politics or a continuation of the old political system?
4. Is there freedom of expression in Turkey?
5. What are the main issues concerning minorities in Turkey?

For the Department evaluation policy, please refer to the *Department of Political Science and International Relations Handbook*. Your final grade will be calculated as shown below:

Paper	20%
Participation	20%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	40%

V. Course Schedule

Week	Topic	Readings
1	Introduction to the class	
2	The Era of the <i>Tanzimat</i> and the Constitutional	Seminar: Zürcher, Ch. 5-6. Discussion: <i>The Rescript of Gülhane</i>

	Revolution	(http://www.anayasa.gen.tr/gulhane.htm); <i>The Rescript of Reforms</i> (http://www.anayasa.gen.tr/reform.htm); <i>Ottoman Constitution of 1876</i> (http://www.anayasa.gen.tr/1876constitution.htm)
3	Sultan Abdülhamit II's Era	Seminar: Zürcher, Ch. 7. Discussion: Selim Deringil, <i>The Well Protected Domains: Ideology and the Legitimation of Power in the Ottoman Empire 1876-1909</i> (IB. Tauris: London-New York, 2011), ch. 1.
4	The Second Constitutional Era (1908-1919)	Seminar: Zürcher, Ch. 8, Ahmad, Ch. 3 Discussion: Niyazi Berkes, "Ziya Gökalp: His Contribution to Turkish Nationalism," <i>The Middle East Journal</i> , VIII, 4 (1954).
5	The Struggle for Independence and the Emergence of the Republic	Seminar: Zürcher, Ch. 9-10, Ahmad Ch. 4 Discussion: Ayşe Kadioğlu, "The Paradox of Turkish Nationalism and the construction of Official Identity," <i>Middle Eastern Studies</i> , XXII, 2 (1996). Soner Cagaptay, "Race, Assimilation and Kemalism: Turkish Nationalism and the Minorities in the 1930s," <i>Middle Eastern Studies</i> , XL, 3 (2004).
6	The One Party State	Seminar: Zürcher, Ch. 11, Ahmad Ch. 5 Discussion: Taha Parla, <i>Corporatist Ideology in Kemalist Turkey: Progress or Order?</i> (Syracuse University Press: Syracuse 2004), Ch. 8.
7	The Rule of the Democratic Party	Seminar: Zürcher, Ch. 12-13, Ahmad Ch. 6 Discussion: John M. VanderLippe, <i>The Politics of Turkish Democracy</i> (State University of New York Press: Syracuse, 2005), Ch. 4-5.
8	The Second Republic	Seminar: Zürcher, Ch. 14, Ahmad Ch. 7-8 Discussion: Şerif Mardin, "Center-Periphery Relations: a Key to Turkish Politics," <i>Daedalus</i> , Winter 1973.
9	The Third Republic: the Özal Era	Seminar: Zürcher, Ch. 15, Ahmad Ch. 9 Discussion: Cengiz Çandar, "Turgut Özal Twenty Years After: The Man and the Politician," http://file.insightturkey.com/Files/Pdf/15_2_2013_candar.pdf Metin Heper, "Islam, Conservatism, and Democracy in Turkey: Comparing Turgut Özal and Recep Tayyip Erdoğan," http://file.insightturkey.com/Files/Pdf/15_2_2013_heper.pdf
10	The 1990s	Seminar: Ersin Kalaycıoğlu, <i>Turkish Dynamics: Bridge across Trobled Lands</i> (Palgrave: New York, 2005), Ch. 5. Discussion: Gareth Jenkins, "The Turkish Military's Impact on Policy," <i>The Adelphi Papers</i> , XLI, 337 (2001).
11	The AK Parti Era	Seminar: Ümit Cizre, <i>Secular and Islamic Politics in Turkey</i> (Routledge: London-New York, 2008), Ch. 1 and 4. Discussion: Şakir Dinçşahin, "A Symptomatic Analysis of the Justice and Development Party's Populism in Turkey, 2007-2010," <i>Government and Opposition</i> , XLVII, 4 (2012).
12	Kurdish Issue	Seminar: David McDowall, <i>A Modern History of the Kurds</i> (IB. Tauris: London-New York, 2005), Ch. 19-20. Discussion: Mesut Yeğen, "Turkish Nationalism and the Kurdish Question," <i>Ethnic and Racial Studies</i> , XXX, 1 (2007).
13	Media in Turkey	Seminar: Metin Heper and Sabri Sayari, <i>Routledge Handbook of Modern Turkey</i> (Routledge: London-New York, 2013), ch. 13. Discussion: <i>Democracy in Crisis: Corruption, Media and Power in Turkey:</i> https://freedomhouse.org/report/special-reports/democracy-crisis-corruption-media-and-power-turkey
14	Electoral Behaviours	Seminar: Yusuf Ziya Özcan, "Party Preferences and Economic Voting in Turkey (Now that the crisis is over)," <i>Party Politics</i> , XV (May 2009). Discussion: Ali Çarkoğlu and Ersin Kalaycıoğlu, <i>Turkish Democracy Today</i> (IB. Tauris: London-New York, 2007), Ch. 7.