IAS 3003 Journey to Turkey

Political Economy of Development in Turkey

Course duration: May 16 – June 5, 2013

Instructor: Fırat Demir; Office: Cate Center 1, Room: 436; Office hours: By appointment; Tel. 325-5844, Tel (Turkey): (+90) 542-399-2010; E-mail: fdemir@ou.edu.

1. Course Objective

This course is an introduction to the existing debates on political economy of economic development in Turkey in the post-independence period. The main objective of the course is to provide the students with a solid background in economic, institutional and historical issues and challenges that have shaped the development trajectories of Turkey. The questions that will be addressed include the following: a) What role historical, institutional, geographical, and cultural factors played in the current economic performance of the country? b) What are the sources of current economic challenges? c) What is the role of economic and cultural globalization in determining the future development path(s) of Turkey?

2. Course Structure

The course is designed around lectures, assigned readings, and class discussions. The students are expected to do all the reading assignments prior to the departure, which will allow a more engaged and interactive class participation during our Journey in Turkey. The topics covered in the lectures will overlap the materials found in the readings. However, the lectures and discussions will, on occasion, cover some materials that are not found in the assigned readings.

3. Course Requirements and Grading

- Map Quiz 5%
- Daily Field Notes 20%

You will keep a daily journal documenting your reflections on course material, visits to museum and other cultural heritage sites, guest lectures, observations of the economic, political and cultural, and institutional challenges, opportunities, differences, dilemmas, etc., that you witness while being in Turkey. You must write at least one page a day. I will collect these notes at the end of the trip. They should be maximum 2 pages a day.

- Blog Entry 25%

During the second week of class, you will develop one of your journal entries into a longer piece (3 pages) for publication on the Journey to Turkey Blog. More specific guidelines for this exercise will be circulated on the first day of class.

- Participation 25%

Class participation means engaged, active participation every time we meet. Your ability to participate is also contingent on your having done the reading and given it some thought.

- Research Paper 25%

You will write a ten-page paper on one element of political economy of development in Turkey, ideally focusing on one of the issues that are discussed in the readings, lectures, or debates we will
have in this class. Your paper will be due after our return, on June 20th. I will upload to D2L a more detailed guideline on the research paper assignment.

For non-econ M.A. students, in order to receive Masters level credit from this course the research paper requirement is adjusted to include a 7,000 – 8,000 word research paper (the deadline is July 1st).

4. Academic Ethics
Cheating on assignments and exams, or plagiarizing (misrepresenting as one’s own anything done by another) is penalized by the University of Oklahoma. A student found in such a situation will be given an F and will be brought to University of Oklahoma Honor Council for further penalties as defined under Academic Misconduct. For further information, refer to http://www.ou.edu/honorcouncil/index.html

5. Students with Disabilities
Any student who feels he or she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately as soon as possible to discuss his or her specific needs. For details refer to http://drc.ou.edu/

6. Religious Holidays
“It is the policy of the University to excuse the absences of students that result from religious observances.”

7. Required Readings
All readings, except Bernieres (2005) are available at D2L.

A. The Background


B. A Brief Economic History of Modern Turkey


C. Turkey and the Middle East in Perspective


D. Selected Issues on Turkish Political economy: The Military, Democratization, and the European Union


8. Required movie assignments

Movie and director names, below:

1. Mevsimler (Seasons), Nuri Bilge Ceylan
2. Crossing the Bridge, Fatih Akın
3. Harem, Ferhan Ozpetek
4. Whose Is This Song?, Adela Peeva
5. Umuda Yolculuk (Journey of Hope), Xavier Koller

9. Recommended guide books

- Also check out the Culture and Tourism Ministry’s web site, has tons of good info including city guides, etc.: http://www.kultur.gov.tr/?_dil=2; http://www.kultur.gov.tr/EN,36442/promotional-films-of-turkey.html;and http://www.kultur.gov.tr/EN,40700/brochures.html

10. Tentative Course Schedule

16 May: Arrival to Istanbul

17 May: Full Day in Istanbul: Lecture: Pamuk and Owen (1999); Discuss Bernieres (2005). Visit: the Roman Hippodrome, the Blue Mosque, the St.Sophia Museum, the mosaic museum, the underground (Yerebatan) cisterns, the Topkapi Palace, and the little Hagia Sophia church.
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22 May: Full Day in Istanbul: Lecture: Demir and Kaboub (2009), Discuss Harem; Visit: Galata District, Taksim Square, Golden Horn, and Eyup Sultan Mosque.

23 May: Travel to Izmir. Visit: Ephesus.

24 May: Kusadasi / Fethiye: Lecture: Bernieres (2005) and Discuss the movie Journey of Hope; Visit: Tlos, Saklikent, Amintas.


26 May: Fethiye / Kas: Lecture: Discuss the movie Whose Is This Song?; Visit: Letoon, Kas, Xanthos, Patara.

27 May: Kas: Lecture: Demir and Kaboub (2009); Visit: Kekova.

28 May: Kas / Antalya Visit: Olympos, Phaselis, Antalya archeology museum.

29 May: Antalya: Lecture: Discuss Mevsimler; Visit: Perge, Aspendos

30 May: Transfer - Antalya Hotel / Antalya Airport & Ankara Airport / Touring in Ankara / Ankara Hotel


02 June: Cappadocia. Discuss the movie Min Dit: The Children of Diyarbakir. Visit: Seljuk Agzikarahan Caravanserai; Goreme, Uchisar, Avanos.

03 June: Cappadocia / Kırsehir / Ankara: Visit: Ihlara Valley.

04 June: Transfer from Ankara to Istanbul

05 June: Fly home from Istanbul