

IAS 3950 Journey to Turkey:

A Survey of Politics and Economics in the Middle East

Course duration: May 15 – June 3, 2014

Instructor: Firat Demir; Office: Cate Center 1, Room: 436; Office hours: By appointment; Tel. 325-5844; E-mail: fdemir@ou.edu

1. Course Objective

This course is an introduction to the existing debates on political economy of development in the Middle East with a particular focus on 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 the Middle Eastern countries. The course also challenges students to critically evaluate similarities and differences between Middle East and Islamic world and the West, including the applicability of such regional and cultural classifications. The questions that will be addressed include the following: a) What are the sources of current economic and political challenges in the region including historical, institutional, geographical, and cultural factors? b) How can we reconcile the existence of massive natural resources with the high levels of poverty and underdevelopment throughout the region? c) What is the role of economic globalization in determining the future development paths of countries in the region? d) What are the effects of European Union candidacy of Turkey on the Middle East and Turkey? e) What are the causes and effects of recent uprisings and revolts throughout the region?

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 15%

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.

- Participation 30%

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 30%

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).

- Bonus: 10% for trying (at least) 10 new dishes from Turkish cuisine. Keep a list of the dishes you try (Turkish names please!) and e-mail it to me at the end of the trip.

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

1. Louis de Bernieres (2005). *Birds Without Wings*. [Paperback]. Vintage.

B. A Brief Economic History of Modern Turkey

2. Owen, R. and Pamuk, S. (1999). *A History of Middle East Economies in the Twentieth Century*. Harvard University Press., Ch. 1, Turkey 1918-1945 & Ch.5 Turkey 1946-1990.
3. Pamuk, Ş. (2008). “Economic Change in Twentieth Century. Is the Glass More than Half Full?” in R. Kasaba (ed.), *Turkey in the Modern World*.
4. Cizre-Sakallıoğlu, Ü. and Yeldan, E. (2000). Politics, Society and Liberalization: Turkey in the 1990s, *Development and Change* 31(2), 481-508.
5. Demir, F. (2009). “Turkish Post-Crisis Development Experience from a Comparative Perspective: Structural Break of Business as Usual?” In Z. Öniş and F. Şenses (Eds.), *Turkish*

Economy in the Post-Crisis Era: The New Phase of Neo-Liberal Restructuring and Integration to the Global Economy (pp.11 – 33). Routledge.

C. Turkey and the Middle East in Perspective

6. Islamoglu-Inan, H. (2004). “Introduction: Oriental Despotism in World-System Perspective,” in H. Islamoglu-Inan (ed.), *The Ottoman Empire and the World Economy* (pp. 1–24). Cambridge University Press.
7. Demir, F. and Kaboub, F. (2009). “Economic Development and the Fabrication of the Middle East as a Eurocentric Project.” In R.K. Kanth (Ed.) *The Challenge of Eurocentrism* (pp.63 – 82). MacMillan.
8. Dahi, O., and Demir, F. (2008). “The Middle East and North Africa.” In A.K. Dutt and J.Ros (Eds.), *International Handbook of Development Economics* (pp.522 – 535). Edward Elgar, 2008.
9. Editors, 2013. “Egypt in Year Three.” *Middle East Report*, July 10.
10. Demir, F. 2013a. “Here is What You Need to Know about the Clashes in Turkey.” *Foreign Policy*, June 1.
11. Demir, F. 2013b. “Why the Protests in Turkey make me Optimistic about the Future of Democracy.” *Foreign Policy*, June 6.

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

12. Karlsson, I. (2009). Turkey in Europe but Not of Europe. TESEV. http://www.tesev.org.tr/Upload/Publication/b039492c-deee-4f1e-88f2-025253481f75/Turkey%20in%20Europe%20but%20not%20of%20Europe_05.2009.pdf
13. Derviş, K., Emerson, M., Gros, D. and Ülgen, S. (2004). “The Economics of Turkey’s Candidacy”, in *European Transformation of Modern Turkey* (pp. 65-107). Centre for European Policy Studies. Brussels, Belgium. <http://shop.ceps.be/book/european-transformation-modern-turkey>
14. Demir, F. (2010). “A Political Economy Analysis of the Turkish Military’s Split Personality: The Patriarchal Master or Crony Capitalist?” In T. Cetin and F. Yilmaz (Eds.), *Understanding the Process of Economic Change in Turkey*. Nova Science Publishers.

8. Recommended guide books

- Hilary Sumner-Boyd, John Freely (2010). *Strolling Through Istanbul: The Classic Guide to the City*. Tauris Parke Paperbacks.
- John Freely (2004). *The Western Shores of Turkey: Discovering the Aegean and Mediterranean Coasts*. Tauris Parke Paperbacks.
- 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>

9. Tentative Course Schedule

15 May: Arrival to Istanbul

16 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.

17 May: Full Day in Istanbul: Lecture: Pamuk and Owen (1999); Discuss Bernieres (2005). Visit: the church of St.Saviour in Chora, Suleyman the Magnificent Mosque, Spice Market

18 May: Full Day in Istanbul: Lecture: Pamuk (2008); Discuss Bernieres (2005). Visit: Balat district, Zulfaris Synagogue, Neve Shalom Synagogue, and Ortaköy Synagogue; Grand Bazaar and Nuru Osmaniye District.

19 May: Full Day in Istanbul: Lecture: Islamoglu-Inan (2004). Visit Bogazici University for a guest lecturer on the issue of European and Turkey relationship.

20 May: Travel to Izmir. Visit: Ephesus.

21 May: Lecture: Demir and Kaboub (2009). Visit Bodrum including Crusaders' Castle, Underwater Archaeology Museum and Mausoleum of King Mausoleus (One of the Seven Wonders of Ancient World).

22 May: Fethiye: Lecture: Bernieres (2005); Visit: Kayakoy.

23 May: Fethiye / Kas: Lecture: Karlsson (2009); Visit: Letoon, Xanthos, Patara.

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

25 May: Kas / Antalya: Lecture: Dervis et al. (2004). Visit: Olympos, Phaselis, Demre (home of *Santa Claus*), Antalya archeology museum.

26 May: Antalya: Visit: Perge, Aspendos.

27 May: Depart for Konya; Lecture: Demir (2010); Visit Mausoleum of Mevlana, founder of Whirling Dervishes Order.

28 May: Leave for Cappadocia. En route visit Sultanhan, motel built for 13th century Silk Road merchants. Arriving in Cappadocia, visit Kaymakli Underground City.

29 May: Lecture: Immigration and economic development (Bernieres, 2005). Visit: Cappadocia, Goreme Monastic Center, Pasabag Valley, Sinassos Village.

30 May: Depart for Ankara. Lecture: Dahi and Demir (2008). Discuss the issues of democratization, development, institution building. Visit: Anatolian Civilization Museum, the Mausoleum of Ataturk.

31 May: Lecture: Editors (2013). Visit Erzurum's monuments including Grand Mosque and Cifte Minareli Medrese. Before noon, depart of Artvin. En route visit the Gregorian monastery of Ishan. Overnight in Artvin.

1 June: Lecture: Demir (2013a, 2013b). Leave Artvin for Trabzon. En route visit Sumela Monastery.

2 June: Visit Ataturk's Mansion and Basilica of Saint Sophia.

3 June: Transfer to Istanbul Ataturk Airport for international airport.