

**Turkey and the European Union**  
**Department of Political Science and International Relations**

**Spring 2007**

The Department of Political Science at SUNY New Paltz in collaboration with the SUNY Model European Union Program developed an innovative three credit undergraduate course to study the only majority Muslim country that is contending for membership in the European Union. Turkey has sought membership in the club of European nations since 1959, in the early years of the European Economic Community. It has faced many obstacles in achieving acceptance from its European neighbors. Turkey has been under formal consideration for membership in the European Union since 1986, and progress has been very slow. The goal of this course is to understand Turkish political, economic and cultural institutions and how they relate to the European Union accession process.

The course has three components that are essential to a full understanding of Turkey's position in relation to the EU. The first is to examine Turkish politics and how its domestic and international affairs affect its relationship to the EU. The second component is a simulation of the upcoming June 2008 European Summit centering on consideration of Turkey's membership application. This simulation takes place at the Model EU conference in İzmir, Turkey. The third component of the course is a study tour of Turkey that will take us from the ancient to the modern. While visiting sights of historical and cultural importance we will explore the country's rich history and consider its contemporary challenges.

**Requirements:**

Students are expected to do the following required readings prior to coming to Turkey:

Nugent, Neil "The EU's Response to Turkey's Membership Application: Not Just a Weighing of Costs and Benefits" *European Integration*. Vol 29 No. 4, 481-502 (2007).

Carkoglu, Ali and Barry Rubin, eds. 2003. *Turkey and the European Union: Domestic Politics, Economic Integration and International Dynamics*. Routledge.

**Choose one of the books on Turkish politics listed below**

These books are highly accessible, written for a general audience or as an introductory text. Read the description of all the books before choosing one based on your interest area. Some are more focused on history while others address more contemporary issues. Read at least one of these prior to departure:

- 1) Andrew Mango, 2006, *The Turks Today*, Overlook TP
- 2) Stephen, Kinzer, 2002, *Crescent and Star: Turkey Between Two Worlds* Farrar, Straus and Giroux.
- 3) Eric Zurcher, *Turkey: A Modern History*, Revised Edition I. B. Tauris.
- 4) Nicole and Hugh Pope, 2004, *Turkey Unveiled*, Overlook TP .

Suggested readings for your research:

The following list of articles should get you started on your research in any number of interest areas. You may choose other articles to guide you in your research; these are only suggestions. A great deal has been written on Turkey's relationship to the EU, so you are encouraged to narrow your focus before delving deeply into wide ranging subjects. I will provide assistance if you cannot find copies of these readings through your library:

Aydinli, Ersel, Nihat Ali Ozcan, Dogan Akyaz. 2006. "The Turkish Military's March Toward Europe" *Foreign Affairs*. Vol. 85, Iss. 1; pg. 77

Celenk, Aslihan. 2007. "The Restructring of Turkey's Policy toward Cyprus: The Justice and Development Party's Struggle for Power" *Turkish Studies*. Vol 8, No. 3. 349-363.

Hoekman, Bernard, M. and Subidey Togan. 2005. *Turkey: Economic Reform and Accession to the European Union*. World Bank Trade and Development Series. World Bank Publication.

Lammers, Konrad. 2006. "The EU and Turkey--Economic Effects of Turkey's Full Membership" *Intereconomics*. Hamburg: Sep 2006. Vol. 41, Iss. 5; p. 282.

Muchaud-Emin, Linda. 2007. "The Restructuring of the Military High Command in the Seventh Harmonization Package and its Ramifications for Civil-Military Relations in Turkey," *Turkish Studies*. Vol 8 No 1.

Özbudun, Ergun. 2007. "Democratization Reforms in Turkey 1993-2004." *Turkish Studies* Vol 8 No 2 179-196.

Toktas, Sule.2006. "EU Enlargement Conditions And Minority Protection: A Reflection On Turkey's Non-Muslim Minorities." *East European Quarterly* Vol. 40, Iss. 4; p. 489.

### **Assignments and Grading**

**Participation (20%):** During the Mission, students will be expected to actively participate in all activities such as lectures, visits, meetings and interviews.

**Research Proposal (about 2 pages) (10%):** In preparation for writing a research paper, students will identify a thesis and relevant academic literature. This proposal is due on January 2<sup>nd</sup> in Turkey. The students will meet with the Professor in Turkey individually to work out a final paper plan based on the proposal.

**Reaction Log (20%):** Students will maintain a Reaction Log throughout their time in Turkey. In the log, students will include documentation of daily experiences; a summary and critique of lectures and meetings with guest speakers, and impressions of encounters during the trip. Students will use the log to illustrate their maturing understanding of Turkey. The log will include a map of Turkey upon which students will track our progress. The reaction log will be due three days after the return from Turkey.

**Research Paper (5,000 words) (50%):** The research paper is due February 13. Papers may focus on a wide range of topics related to Turkey's accession into the EU including but not limited to human rights, migration, defense, constitutional change, political change, secularism, economic policy, or socio-economic factors.

**Schedule:**

**Pre Departure:** Students are expected to complete the required readings and the proposal before leaving for Turkey.

**Departure January 1, 2007**

**SUNY MEU Participation: January 3-5**

**Departure for the Study Tour: January 6-16**

1/ 6-1/7	Ephesus, Aphrodisias
1/8	Pamukkale
1/9 – 1/10	Konya, Cappadocia Region
1/11-1/12	Ankara
1/13-1/15	İstanbul
1/16	Depart İstanbul for JFK

**Final papers due February 13.**

**Guide to writing a proposal**

Each of the following components should be included in your proposal:

- a) Title of your project
- b) The puzzle you are attempting to solve. Come up with a single question about Turkey's accession into the EU that you are interested in. More focused questions are better for a paper like this.  
Example: What explains Turkey's human rights policy changes between 2002-2004?  
You can narrow this question to look specifically at the issue of freedom of speech.  
Were the reform packages effective in changing key countries' positions in the EU?
- c) Your hypothesis. This is an educated answer to the question that you have proposed in b.
  - Your question should incorporate a variable that you are trying to explain: a dependent variable (i.e. Turkey's human rights policy).
  - In your hypothesis you are trying to explain the changes to your dependent variable based on the impact of explanatory variables (Turkey's human rights policy changes can be

explained by Turkish political party in charge. This party has a pro EU stance with a specific human rights agenda)

- Explain what causal mechanisms connect your dependent and independent variables. (i.e. The interest of AK Party specifically on the religious freedom especially the women's right to wear the headscarf in public offices can connect the two variables.).
- Explain why your hypothesis is plausible. (i.e. the position of the AK Party toward human rights in Turkey changes after they lose the decision over the headscarf in the European Human Rights Court).

At this stage your hypothesis is purely an educated guess that needs further research and confirmation that your guess is true. But without some preliminary research you cannot make an educated guess. Here is what you will do to start your research:

d) An annotated bibliography (complete this early as you are developing a-f to help you formulate your question):

An Annotated Bibliography is like any bibliography but also contains additional information that will be of use to you as you begin to evaluate your sources and write your paper. You will produce one annotation for each of **THREE** scholarly (peer reviewed) sources that you plan to use in your paper. Please provide the following information for each entry:

- 1) Full publication information in a consistent style.
- 2) A short paragraph summarizing the contents of the source, including the thesis (e.g. the main argument) and main ideas.
- 3) A short list of points you have found in your sources that you believe will be of use in your own paper. (For example, the author's thesis or description of the methods, purposes, and arguments in the source; facts, statistics, or other raw data you intend to use.) Be sure to include the page number(s) of each point you list for quick reference later.
- 4) A final paragraph in which you describe how/what this source contributes to the debate you will be engaging and how you will use it to support your own argument. Be as specific as you can, noting concepts, data, or arguments you plan to incorporate into your paper.
- 5) A short critique (this can be positive or negative) of the source in which you evaluate its arguments according to the following: How accurate and appropriate is the information being presented? Does the author define key terms and concepts clearly? Finally: is the argument ultimately persuasive, given its apparent purpose?