Course Information

Name: Political Change in the Middle East – Can Turkey Play a Role?
Teaching Institution: Bogazici University Lifelong Learning Center
Location: Istanbul, Turkey
Dates: 4 - 27 January 2015
Duration: 3 weeks
Course contact hours: 36 hours of academic classes and seminars plus additional professional sits visits
Pre-requisites: 1 year of study in a degree related to International Relations, International Studies, Politics, History
Last updated: July 2014

Course Descriptions and Learning Outcomes

The goal of this program is to give students a better understanding of the politics and policies of the Middle East, and the potential role of Turkey within it.

To start with the course will examine how the term Middle East is a fluctuating concept that can designate a range of different countries, cultures and religions depending on the historical, geographical and political perspectives applied.

Attention will then be devoted to the Arab Spring, analyzing the wave of protests and revolutions across the countries of the Arab world, the factors at play and the consequences - present and future - for the various countries involved and their neighbours.

Students will then be introduced to Turkey’s political environment, its government and Foreign Policy before considering whether Turkey can play a bridging role between Europe and the Middle East.

This intensive and dynamic program will involve interactive group work, guest presentations and visits to relevant organisations and institutions.
Academic classes (36 hours)
Classes will cover the following topics:

- The Middle East – definition(s), countries, similarities and differences
- Turkey’s Government
- Turkish politics - secularism and Islam
- The evolution of Turkey’s Foreign Policy
- Turkey: a model for change in the Middle East? A potential bridge between East and West?
- Political economy of the Middle East and the Arab Uprisings
- Major conflicts in Middle East
- Iran’s position and Its Nuclear Power
- Historical and Political Background of Arab Spring
- EU-Turkish relations
- Arab Spring in Egypt and Syria: Stolen Revolutions

Field visits
Site visits in January 2015 are to be confirmed. As a guide, the program is likely to visit organisations such as:

- IKA-Economic Development Foundation
- KADER-The Association for the Support and Training of Women Candidates
- TESEV-The Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation
- Australian Embassy

Cultural Activities
The course includes a number of cultural activities, both inside and outside of Istanbul, designed to give participants an appreciation for Turkish culture and attitudes, and the regional context within which the country interacts.

Learning outcomes
Course aim: To develop participants’ awareness and understanding of the political landscape of the Middle East and Turkey in particular and of the issues relating to the Arab Spring.

On completion of this program, students should be able to:

- Define the notion of Middle East
- Discuss cultural differences in the Middle East
- Analyse the current key issues of the Arab Spring
- Describe the current Turkish political landscape
- Address the current challenges facing the Middle East
- Evaluate the role of Turkey as a potential model for change in the Middle East
- Summarise aspects of the history of the European Union
• Understand the economic and political logic behind the EU integration.

**Course requirements (assessment)**
Students are required to undertake the following assessment.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Assessment</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Percent of final grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Final exam-Open essay questions</td>
<td>It is made of open essay questions, there will be 10 questions and students will choose 2 of them to answer. Answer sheets should be at least 2 page-long for each answer.</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final paper 2500 words minimum</td>
<td>The students should define their topics within the subjects of the courses in their programme by January 16, 2015 and inform the Bogazici University Lifelong Learning Centre by e-mail (<a href="mailto:burcu.erturkkilic@boun.edu.tr">burcu.erturkkilic@boun.edu.tr</a>). The deadline for submitting the papers is February 13, 2015.</td>
<td>45% (TBC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance and participation</td>
<td>Pertinent preparation and active class participation is graded</td>
<td>15% (TBC)</td>
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Australian universities may choose to request additional assessment from students, such as submitting a reflective journal, in order to approve credit transfer.

**Attendance**
Students are required to attend all lectures, presentations, visits, practical and cultural activities that are scheduled as part of the program.

**Class participation**
Students will be required to participate in discussions during lectures, seminars and visits.

**Academic honesty**
Students will be required to comply with Bogazici University’s policies regarding plagiarism and academic integrity.

**Grading**
The Political Change in the Middle East course is worth 7.5 ECTS credits.

Students will receive a transcript from Bogazici University Lifelong Learning Center stating their results. This transcript will usually be available 4-6 weeks after the conclusion of the final program assessment.

**Available Support Services**
The program is fully supported by the Lifelong Learning Center, an entity of Bogazici University specialised in organising international programmes. Students will have access to campus computing and library facilities to assist them with completing the program’s required assessment.
Contact Information
For further information regarding this syllabus, please contact the Australian Institute for Mobility Overseas:
info@aimoverseas.com.au
Phone: (02) 9975 7792
Web: www.aimoverseas.com.au