Course Description: The course introduces students to the range of problems related to Turkey and its neighbors. Turkey’s neighborhood includes diverse set of states, economies and societies. Among these neighbors one should mention former imperial territories and adversaries in the Balkans and the Middle East, new European Union Members along the Black Sea region, and post-Soviet states on the Caspian Sea. During the semester we are going to take each region separately and examine the history of Turkey’s relationship with each of the states in these regions. We are going to start our discussion with an overview of the transformation of Turkish foreign policy since the very foundation of the Republic. We’ll pay due attention to the imperial backgrounds, particularly Ottoman/Russian/Habsburg/German empires, as they conditioned the very history of Turkey and its neighbors throughout the 20th century.

Class Attendance, Presentation, Term Paper, Final Exam: This seminar is organized around common readings as the basis for weekly discussions. Attendance and class participation are mandatory and counts 40% of the final grade. Each student is going to make a short class presentation during the semester. This presentation will be on the topic that each student picks as his/her term paper topic. In-class presentation and term paper each count 20%. There will also be a final exam, 20%.

Term Paper: Each student will write one review essay of about 2000 words. In this essay students will provide critical assessment of a group of articles or reports on a certain theme related to one of the discussion sessions in the course. In addition to assigned readings the review essay should be based on outside readings.

Class participation and attendance: %40
Presentation: %20
Term paper: %20
Final: %20

Textbook:
The following is going to be our basic textbook. Every week we are going to read a chapter from this book. Additional readings for each week will be announced in class.


Course Package is available at NAZAR KIRTASIYE
Week I: Introduction.

Week II: Understanding Turkey’s Relations with Its Neighbors, An Overview:


Week III: Reclaiming Turkey’s Imperial Past: Memory, History, Politics:


Week IV: The Legacy of the Ottoman Past:


Week V: Turkey as a “Model” for Other Nations?:


Week VI: Arab Spring Reconsidered:


Week VII: Post-Gulf War Middle East and Turkey: Syria, Iraq and Kurdish Question:

Özcan, Mesut. “From Distance to Engagement: Turkish Policy Towards the Middle East, Iraq and Iraqi Kurds.” Insight Turkey 13.2 (2011): 71-92.


Week VIII: Turkey’s Relations with Iran:


Week IX: Post-Soviet Transformations: Turkey, Caucasus and the Black Sea Region:


Week X: Turkey and The Balkans:


Week XI: Turkey as a Transatlantic Neighbor:


Week XII-XIII: Student Presentations.