Course Description:
This course aims at contributing to the ability of students to understand dynamics of Turkish foreign policy towards the South Caucasus in the post-Cold War era. To achieve its aim, the course presents an overview of Turkey’s relations with the countries of the South Caucasus namely Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. Located between Iran, Russia and Turkey, the South Caucasus is one of the most diverse and conflict-ridden regions in the world. The area is still in serious unrest due to ongoing conflicts in Abkhazia, South Ossetia and Nagorno-Karabakh. On the other hand, the region is at the same a bridge connecting Western markets to Central Asian energy routes/sources and offers Europe alternative energy suppliers other than Russia. The region has a strategic importance for Turkey and the course will analyze Turkey’s relations with these states from the angle of protracted conflicts and energy politics. The course will also cover the social, political and economic developments that have occurred in the South Caucasus republics after the collapse of the Soviet Union as well as how the interests of the great powers such as Russia, the EU and the U.S. influence the dynamics of the region.

Expectations and Requirements:
All the students are expected to attend the regularly scheduled classes and participate in discussions. They are also expected to read 2-3 journal articles or book chapters before the class meeting. There will be a research paper and a final exam at the end of the semester. The final exam will be an in-class exam and it will consist of identification and essay questions. Please bear in mind that PLAGIARISM is not only academically dishonest, but also illegal subject to disciplinary action.

Grading
Class attendance and participation: 20%
Research Paper: 40%
Final Exam: 40%
TOPICS

Week 1: Introduction and the historical overview of the South Caucasus states. The region’s importance for the Ottoman, Persian and Russian Empires. What is the distinction between the North and South Caucasus? South Caucasus within the Soviet Union.


Week 2: The South Caucasus after the collapse of the Soviet Union. The rise of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia as independent states. Domestic and foreign policy developments in the newly independent states of the South Caucasus.

- Dawisha & Parrott (eds.) Conflict, Cleavage and Change in Central Asia and the Caucasus. (Cambridge University, 1997) Chapter 3-4-5 pp. 69-200

Week 3: Protracted conflicts of the South Caucasus I: South Ossetia and Abkhazia conflicts. Five Day War between Georgia and Russia


Week 4: Protracted conflicts of the South Caucasus II: The Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict


Week 5: Turkish foreign policy towards the South Caucasus. Dynamics and basic determinants of Turkish foreign policy towards the region. Does Turkey have a specific Caucasus policy?

Week 6: Turkey - Armenia Relations


Week 7: Turkey - Azerbaijan Relations


Week 8: Turkey - Georgia Relations

- Resul Yalçın, “Turkey’s Primary Concerns in Georgia: An Analysis of Three Cases”, Insight Turkey, Vol.6, No.2, April-June 2004, s.103.

Week 9: Turkey and Russia in Eurasia. The dynamics of Turkish-Russian relations towards the South Caucasus. Does Turkey compete or cooperate with Russia in the New Energy Game?


**Week 10:** Energy as a major geopolitical factor of the South Caucasus. The challenging pipeline negotiations and Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline.

- Paul Tekin & Paul Williams. “EU Russian Relations and Turkey’s Role as an Energy Corridor”, Europe-Asia Studies, (March, 2009) vol. 61, No.2, pp. 337-356,

**Week 11:** Energy conflicts of the Eurasian region: The New Great Game


**Week 12:** Turkey’s energy policy in the frame of new Turkish foreign policy. What is the role of energy in Turkey’s EU Accession process and what role for Turkey as an energy transit country and for European energy security? Nabucco, TAP and TANAP

- Olgu Okumuş, “Turkey’s Standing in Gas Pipeline Games” GPoT Policy Brief No: 31 (March 2012).
Week 13: Research Paper Presentations

Week 14: Research Paper Presentations